

THE GATEWAY

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New women's group started on campus

Fucken Up Sexist Shit (FUSS) hopes to bring feminist perspectives to community

JOSELYN ARMSTRONG
CHRIS BOUTIER
News Writers

With a notable absence of women's groups on campus, a new feminist collective called Fucken Up Sexist Shit (FUSS) is hoping to step into the void.

FUSS was founded two months ago by U of A students Lisa Moore, Kirsten McCrea and Ariel Bowering, through the sponsorship of the Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG). Currently boasting a membership of nearly 40 and growing, FUSS's mandate is simple: to raise awareness of feminist issues on a campus that has been historically lacking feminist exposure.

"We started the group in order to get [feminist author] Inga Muscio added on to the SU's Revolutionary Speakers tour list, but once we started talking about starting up a women's group, everyone got really excited," said McCrea. "U of A was one of the few schools in North America that didn't have a group like this, so instead of bitching about it, we just made one."

"It's not like we hate men or sex," added Moore. "We wanted to start FUSS because there were almost no resources dealing with women that was inclusive to all genders, ages and races."

"U of A was one of the few schools in North America that didn't have a group like this, so instead of bitching about it, we just made one."

KIRSTEN MCCREA,
FUSS CO-FOUNDER

So far, said Moore, the group feels it has been achieving its goal. When they weren't handing out cookies shaped like vaginas around campus, FUSS has managed to get the U of A library to order feminist literature which would have been otherwise overlooked, and the group also hopes to start an independent magazine filled with sexuality information, male and female health issues, art and literature.

FUSS also makes and sells merchandise such as buttons, T-shirts, patches and more, which can be purchased by anyone interested in supporting the group.

PLEASE SEE WOMEN'S GROUP • PAGE 2



KATE WADDE

BAKING AWARENESS Women's group FUSS gave out "cunt cookies" this week.

7 Tyson Durst has put a lot of thought into the nature of warfare, and the results are gracing our pages today in the form of an 1050-word opinion piece. Bring your smoking jacket and enjoy.

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Thursday Sunny, 11s math-whiz
Winnie Cooper; High 6, Low 3
Friday Sunny; get punched in face by Becky Slater in Star Trek hallucination; High 10, Low 5
Saturday Sunny; Voulez-vous le beurre, Madeline?; High -2, Low -10
Sunday Sunny; best friend Paul turns out to be Marilyn Manson; High 1, Low -6
Source: Environment Canada



From the archives

Student Health Services (SHS) announced they would begin dispensing the birth control pill at the discretion of its doctors. The pill had been prescribed a total of three times at the U of A before this, purely for regulation of the menstrual cycle and not contraception. At this time, SHS medical insurance cost \$31.50 and didn't cover dental, eye care, or hernia problems. But SHS said the insurance would cover any Christmas or skiing-related accidents.

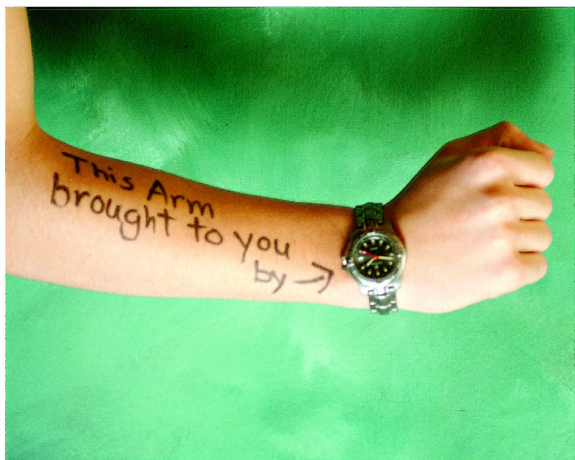
1964

Attention!

Just a word to the wise: this is the last real issue of The Gateway this semester. But there's still one more issue coming out. Get it? No, I mean, nudge nudge? Keep an eye out for hilarity, fun patios.



14 Smallman Records' Sixty Stories are coming to town, and songstress Jo Snyder discusses body image and what it's like being a rock star in today's A&E section.



MIKE BOLOSEVIC

THE FIRST OF CAPITALISM The annual Buy Nothing Day is 29 November. Are you ready to revolt? See page 12.

Sharing the same professor in two different cities

A profile on the award-winning Zoology 352 course, which teaches Calgary and Edmonton students through teleconferencing

ANDREW TOUGAS
JENNIFER PAMILLANO
News Writers

Going to Zoology 352 is a bit like being on an Edmonton game show: there's buzzers on the seats, cameras filming, and even a remote studio audience in Calgary.

The course, which studies parasites and their interactions with hosts, allows students from the U of A and the University of Calgary to share the same professor in real time via teleconferencing. The class takes place in a classroom in the Engineering Teaching and Learning Centre (ETLC), where each seat features a black panel with a microphone and red button. To ask a question, students hit the button and a camera located behind the professor will zoom in and project the student on the screen for everyone to see.

The system allows experts from both universities to combine resources for students—but of course, the Calgary connection is open to all sorts

of city pride potshots.

"We play up the Edmonton-Calgary rivalry, have some fun with it," said Mike Belosevic, the U of A professor who leads the three profs teaching the course. "Some days I come to school in an Oilers jersey after a big win."

With the class dispersed across two cities, students are still able to connect one-on-one with professors through e-mail and telephones. Effort is made, however, to have the professors from the U of A teach in Calgary on occasion. Although physical restraints prevent this from happening more frequently, Belosevic is careful to ensure that the U of C students get some attention.

"We don't want them to feel like they are just watching the TV, even though it is a real-time teleconference," he said. When U of A profs can't make it down to Calgary or vice versa, a technician is still on hand in class to ensure things run smoothly.

The idea for teleconferencing the course arose in 1995, when the U of C required someone to teach parasitology, and only the U of A's Belosevic was available at the time.

But when U of C parasitology expert André Buret became available to teach shortly after the teleconferencing was established, an opportunity existed to share their knowledge with the class.

"That is one of the advantages of a teleconferencing course: you provide students exposure to individuals

from various expertise," Belosevic explained. "We don't have anyone on this campus who teaches pathophysiology [the study of how parasites damage bodily systems]. But teleconferencing students get exposed to André Buret; since he's actively working in the area, his expertise is then being shared."

"We play up the Edmonton-Calgary rivalry, [and] have some fun with it. Some days I come to school in an Oilers jersey after a big win."

MIKE BOLOSEVIC,
PROFESSOR, ZOOLOGY 352

Buret's knowledge lets Belosevic focus his efforts on his specialty, emiology (how hosts battle parasites), while the class' third professor, U of A's Allen Shostak, can discuss the ecology of parasites and how the host battles infections.

The expanded knowledge makes the course extra appealing to students, says Belosevic, and enrolment numbers for Zoology 352 may demonstrate it: the class has doubled in size since 1995.

PLEASE SEE ZOOLOGY CLASS • PAGE 2

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colophon

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Class shares experts from U of A, U of C

Teleconference connection prompted comprehensive web lab in demand by countries across the globe

ZOOLOGY CLASS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Next year, it is also expecting a 30 per cent enrolment increase—but even with local audiences expanding, Belosevic says the class may go further than that, citing University of Lethbridge's interest in the course.

The system also had another surprising side effect: the creation of an internationally recognized Internet lab. Teleconferencing severely limited the universities' abilities to present a live lab for the course—traditional labs feature live specimens, and trying to standardize them between two distant classes would be impossible. From these early discussions, it was agreed that a web lab would have to be made from scratch for students in both lectures, said Belosevic.

The result was an interactive website that features over 1600 photographs plus 50 videos and flash animations illustrating the lifecycles of various parasites. Belosevic explains that schools from Turkey, France, Japan, Australia and the US have all expressed interest in gaining access to the site.

All three professors share in the content, with Shostak doing most of the updating. Students have the option of doing their lab at their own PCs via the Internet or a CD-ROM.

"Every year we add something new to it. That's the advantage of web-based labs: you can do this. You can add on a lesson of things and more and more information. Not to try to overload the students, but to provide a better access to the material," said Belosevic. "It is a continuous labour of love. Hopefully it won't get too big."

In fact, students have responded well to the course and its unique presentation. Zoology 352 won the University Teaching Award for 2002 from student letters nominating the class. Belosevic says the enthusiasm his students have for the class through the e-mail questions and office-hour meetings with students about the lectures.

"The interesting thing is we don't get questions just before exams; we get them continuously after the lectures which means the students are learning and actively thinking," he said.

areas such as the libraries," said Sgt Darcy Pennock, Community and Crime Prevention Coordinator for Campus Security.

"Don't be a victim," advised Pennock. "Protect what's yours and be aware of your surroundings, and by all means report suspicious people as soon as possible."

As a result of the thefts, Campus Security Constables have been conducting undercover operations in high-theft areas.

MAJOR NAIT PROUD

At 6am on 23 November, officers observed a male knocking over cement bus benches before he took a run at an oncoming ETS bus. He won the game of chicken, but bounced off the side of the bus and was confronted by officers. He admitted he was coming back from a pub crawl. The NAIT student was given a warning and sent on his way.

LISTER ALCOHOL GRIEF CONTINUES

On 23 November at about 5pm, staff started contacting Campus Security to report an intoxicated, unconscious male on the third floor of one of the halls. Officers arrived and found him still unconscious, but breathing. He had been drinking all night, had returned to Lister, then downed another 12oz of vodka. He was transported by ambulance to emergency.

HIT AND RUN NEAR HUB

On 23 November at about 3am, a HUB resident reported a loud smashing sound in N 10 north of Law and Fine Arts. A newer-model black sports car had smashed into a parked Corolla, causing an estimated \$6000 in damage. The car was last seen heading south on 111 Street dangle, a headlight, but despite an exhaustive search of the area, the vehicle was not located.

NO REST FOR THE WICKED

At 12:30am on 23 November, officers discovered a male sleeping in one of the stairwells in HUB. He had several non-returnable warrants for his arrest and an extensive criminal record for violence, robbery, weapons charges, break and enter, theft and fraud. He was transported with campus.

ON-CAMPUS OFF-ROADING

On 24 November, Edmonton Police

"We don't have anyone on this campus who teaches pathophysiology. But teleconferencing students get exposed to Andre Buret [at the U of C]; since he's actively working in the area, his expertise is then being shared."

MIKE BELOSEVIC,
PROFESSOR, ZOOLOGY 352

The class does endure some technological problems during the lectures, though Calgary's lecture theatre seems most prone to these problems, as occasionally the screen will freeze up and the system needs a few minutes to be rebooted. Diana Hong, in her third year of science, says "it kind

of interrupts the class, but it doesn't happen often."

But Belosevic and his students find the class still retains the same feel as large classes in other subject areas. Leah Prokuda, a fourth-year science student, said, "I like the format. It's interactive but it's basically like any other class."

Belosevic is pleased with the technology, but knows the limits it holds, stressing that this format could not work in any classroom. The larger the number of students, he says, the greater chance the interaction between student and professor will break down.

Entry-level courses that attempted to use this technology might not enjoy the success that Zoology 352 has, said Belosevic, because as a senior course, it relies on experts offering in-depth lectures on specific subject areas, something entry-level courses may not worry about. Other senior-level courses that require specific expertise from out of city, province or country, might want to consider using this technology, he said.

Women's collective hopes to have staying power

Group ultimately wants to provide women's centre on campus

WOMEN'S GROUP • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The money raised will go towards sponsoring future speakers, establishing and raising awareness of the group and, their ultimate goal, a women's centre, where people could go for information about a wide variety of feminist topics, or just to hang out.

"[Starting up a feminist group] has been tried a lot of times in the past here on campus, and they usually died off pretty quickly. It's a hard thing to get going."

LISA MOORE,
FUSS CO-FOUNDER

Campus response to the group has been fantastic, said Moore. "We're just so excited that this is working out so well. [Starting up a feminist group] has been tried a lot of times in the past here on campus, and they usually died off pretty quickly. It's a hard thing to get going."

"Just from talking to people, everyone is really supportive," she added. "People are e-mailing us to ask if we can talk to classes, we've had interviews on CJR; it's just been an overwhelming response."

FUSS meetings are held every alternating Wednesday and Tuesday at 5pm in the pedway between HUB and Humanities. Inna Muscu will be speaking at 7:30pm on 5 December in the Horowitz Theatre.

STREETERS

The semester is winding down and students will have a break from studies next month

What will you be doing over the holiday season?



Jason Richardson
Science II

I'm excited about Christmas holidays. I like Christmas because I really like hanging out with my family. There's this Polish deal we go to because we're Polish apparently. We get to eat lots of delicious Polish foods like pierogies. My whole family gets together and there's much drinking and rejoicing. Christmas is too commercialized though, so bring back the love.



Ryan Kaarsmaier
Civil Engineering II

Hmmm, I want to sound interesting for your Gateway. The wonderful thing about Christmas is there's snow everywhere and you can go to the mountains and do crazy things like toboggan towards cliffs and off cliffs and going skiing towards cliffs and off cliffs and maybe you can do these things with your girlfriend, which would be really great.



Katie Peterson
Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics II

I'm looking forward to relaxing and hanging out with my family, maybe some tobogganing, snowman building. I'm not really going anywhere, I'm just hanging out. I'm spending Christmas with my mom this year and that's a good thing because when I don't spend it with her she gets really upset.



Ryan Sherrington
Computing Science II

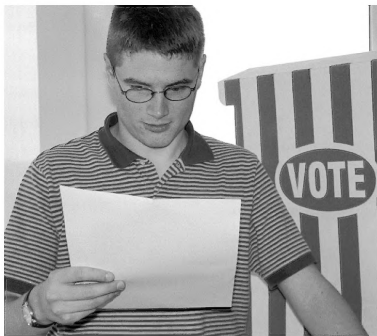
I've got a drama project to do, so I'm going to be doing that and that'll be fun. I guess just hanging out, because I'm living in rez. My parents live in St Albans so I'll visit them.



Sheila Nent
Arts II

I'm going to do my Christmas shopping and I'm going to be working a few extra shifts because normally I just work part-time. I'll just be relaxing and not thinking about school.

Compiled and photographed by Kerry Precht and Jan Yu



Steve Smith, SU Vice-President (Operations & Finance)

FILE PHOTO: KARTIN BERRY

Proposed changes strive to bring order to SU elections

SHAWN HILDEBRANDT
News Writer

To improve order in the traditionally unruly Students' Union elections, the SU's elections review committee is hoping their proposed changes to SU election bylaws will be passed at the next Students' Council meeting.

The committee for the Finding and Realization of Change to Elections (FARCE) was struck this summer to address concerns arising from past elections. Last year alone, controversies surfaced regarding such things as candidates speaking to external media, and the close election of the Vice-President (Operations & Finance). FARCE consulted students and former SU executives to gather information, and presented its findings to Council earlier this year. Now, election bylaws have been rewritten to reflect the committee's recommendations, pending approval of Students' Council.

"I'm pretty happy with the way the recommendations turned out. I think they put in a pretty solid framework for an improved electoral process," said Steve Smith, current SU Vice-President (Operations & Finance), and chair of the FARCE committee.

There are three major changes that are being proposed by FARCE: preferential balloting, centralized student councillor elections, and new freedom for candidates to speak to the external media without the permission of the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), the SU official who oversees the elections.

Preferential balloting, a system used in Australian elections, is a unique counting procedure where voters rank their candidate choices in order, which theoretically determines voter intent with greater accuracy.

Smith explained that in preferential balloting, candidates in each race would be ranked in order of preference. On the first count of the ballots, whoever had the fewest first-place votes would be knocked out of the competition. Then, the votes that ranked the ousted candidate first would be reallocated to their second-place choices (among the remaining in the race) on the ballots. The votes would be transferred in this fashion until one candidate was demonstrated as the favourite by achieving 50 per cent plus one vote.

The system would resolve the close races that SU elections often see, like last year's close Vice-President (Operations & Finance) vote, where the top three candidates were all within 32 votes of each other, and the winner took the election by eight votes.

"I was elected VP (Ops & Finance) with 24.8 per cent of the vote," said Smith. "Speaking realistically, under a voting system that accurately represented the voters wishes, I would never have been elected."

Centralized student councillor elections would now have students from all faculties voting for their SU councillors all on the same day under the jurisdiction of the CRO. Previously, students in some faculties were not even aware of the councillor elections, even though the successful candidates ultimately represent the faculty's student interests.

"I was elected VP (Ops & Finance) with 24.8 per cent of the vote. Speaking realistically, under a voting system that accurately represented the voters wishes, I would never have been elected."

STEVE SMITH, SU VICE-PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS & FINANCE)

"[This] ideally addresses concerns where some faculties don't have elections, some faculties run elections very poorly, and some faculties do a fantastic job," said Smith. "And hopefully, if you got the election happening the same day all over campus, people will be more aware of it, and voter turnout will rise."

The third change would adjust bylaws to allow candidates to speak to the external media without the CRO's permission. The issue drew a great deal of attention in the last SU elections, when Vice-President (Student Life) candidate Kelly Shinkaruk was disqualified for speaking with the *Edmonton Sun*—without first asking permission from the CRO—about appearing naked on her campaign posters.

"The idea was you can't artificially create a playing field that is totally and completely level, so rather than trying and just penalizing people who are better able to exploit that intent, you should allow people to act in whatever fashion they deem fit and let them reap the consequences of their actions," said Smith.

If these proposed changes are passed, they won't affect the upcoming SU elections in February, but will take effect 1 May, 2003 for the next year's elections. The next Students' Council meeting will take place on 3 December.

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december 5, 2002
inga MUSCIO

7:30pm
Horowitz Theatre
SUB, UofA

Activist and acclaimed feminist author, Inga Muscio's book, *Cunt*, reclaims control over women's sexuality by taking back words that have previously been used to degrade or insult them.

Ms. Muscio's lecture is the evening before the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

tickets \$10
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HUB, SUB and CAB info booths

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KRISTINE OWRAM
Associate News Editor

First published in 1991, Maclean's magazine's annual rankings of Canadian universities were developed by two editors at the magazine who had sons about to graduate from high school. Trying to help their sons pick a university to attend the next year, both fathers felt that something was lacking in the brochures provided to them by the universities themselves.

"They looked at all the brochures coming in from the various universities across the country, and both being very seasoned journalists, felt that there was no real way to look at comparative strengths," said Ann Dowsett Johnston, current editor of the rankings.

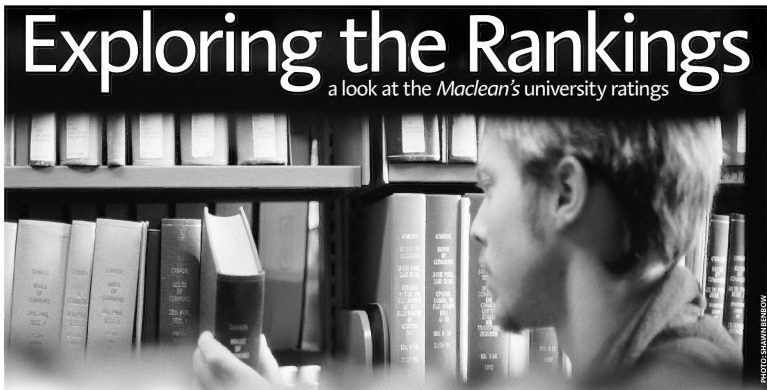
"At the time, people were very disenchanted with [Prime Minister] Mulroney and they wanted to see how publicly funded institutions were doing in Canada and how they were serving our young people. People wanted to know how their tax dollars were being spent."

Currently, Maclean's ranks the top 47 universities in the country, excluding only very small institutions and religious schools. The universities are split up into three different categories: Primarily Undergraduate (with relatively few graduate programs), Comprehensive (with a broad range of research activity and a diverse selection of programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels), and Medical Doctoral (with PhD programs, medical schools and a broad range of research).

This year, the University of Alberta dropped from fifth to seventh out of 15 universities in the Medical Doctoral category. However, the U of A was ranked in the top four institutions in the country for its reputation in three out of four categories, and its library is considered the second best in Canada.

"The University of Alberta was discouraged by our two-rank fall in this year's Maclean's rankings," said Dr Rod Fraser, President of the University of Alberta.

"However, the fact that we have consistently ranked in the top five in the reputation survey reflects that we are indeed providing an exceptional experience for our students and an



education that is looked upon very highly in this country."

Unfortunately for the University of Alberta, the reputation factor of the rankings is often seen by critics as the shakiest part.

Maclean's sends out reputational surveys each year to a variety of people, including university officials, guidance counsellors, CEOs, corporate recruiters, and heads of organizations.

Although it accounts for 15 per cent of the rankings, the survey only has a response rate of 13.5 per cent. Not surprisingly, the group with the highest response rate by far is university officials, at 44.4 per cent of the responses received.

"I wouldn't eliminate the rankings generally, but I think the reputational survey just isn't valid," said Sean Riley, President of St Francis Xavier University, the Nova Scotia institution ranked first in the Primarily Undergraduate category.

"I'm asked to fill out the survey every year just like every other university president, but I have great difficulty accepting the fact that I could validly rate the difference between an institution in Alberta that I may have visited once and an institution in

Ontario that I may not have visited at all," he said.

"There's a tendency when you're toward the top of the rankings to do well in the reputational survey almost by self-fulfilling prophecy. You get up there, so people think you must be good."

"There's a tendency when you're toward the top of the rankings to do well in the reputational survey almost by self-fulfilling prophecy. You get up there, so people think you must be good."

SEAN RILEY, PRESIDENT,
ST FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

Another major grievance with the rankings, at least from the University of Alberta, is the importance placed on the entry grades of first-year students. According to Fraser, the U of A unfairly

loses ground in this category. While more than 30 per cent of Ontario students graduate from high school with an 80 per cent or higher grade point average, averaged over the required classes for entry to university, only 18 per cent of Albertan students leave high school with the same marks, according to U of A data.

Despite the controversy inevitably generated by various aspects of the rankings, they are still seen to hold a fair amount of clout.

Maclean's is generally seen as the only publication in the country to produce reasonably accurate rankings of post-secondary institutions, and these rankings always have a wide readership.

The *Globe and Mail* released a "University Report Card" earlier this year, where about 21 000 online surveys were completed by Canadian undergraduate students. However, completion of the survey was entirely voluntary and response rates varied drastically from institution to institution. The results were interesting, if not contentious: the University of Toronto, ranked first in the Medical Doctoral category of the Maclean's rankings for nine years in a row, ranked 24th out

of 29 institutions. The U of A ranked twelfth.

"I think our rankings are extraordinarily accurate compared to what others do, and I think they also have incredible depth," said Dowsett Johnston.

"The reception of the rankings has gone from sincere dismissal to grudging respect to a fair amount of respect from most quarters. All the evidence indicates that they are well read and that Maclean's is well consulted."

However, Dowsett Johnston also said that since only seven per cent of Canadian students attend university outside of their home regions, it is not likely that the rankings will affect students' decisions as to what institution they are going to attend in most cases.

Susan Bloch-Neveite, Director of Public Affairs at the University of Toronto, agreed with Johnston.

"Our information suggests that the survey is not the most critical influence for students, but I'm told that it is moving up on the list of influencers and certainly enjoys wide readership, according to Maclean's circulation figures."

"It's just one tool, however: just one tool."




Drivers wanted.

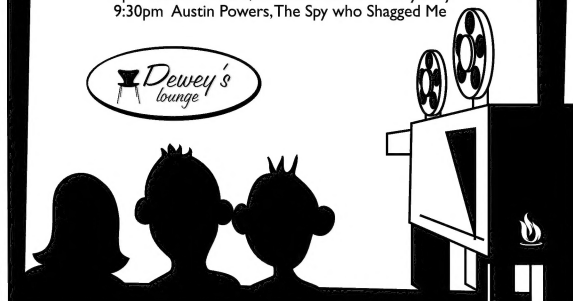
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7pm Austin Powers, International Man of Mystery
9:30pm Austin Powers, The Spy who Shagged Me



PITION

The tuition fight shouldn't be a battle

I'VE WRITTEN ON THE TOPIC OF TUITION BEFORE, and in my research have noticed there's a few points that aren't debated, by any side, be it our federal or provincial governments, our University administration or our Students' Union. Most important of them is that if only one fifth of a democratic country attends post-secondary education, as is the case in Canada right now, that fifth is in a bad position unless the other four fifths are sympathetic to their cause.

We've seen the results of a government that hasn't been given a mandate to care about students more than its other citizens, and the statistics are nearing cliché at this point—tuition has increased 209 per cent in ten years, and in a similar time, federal and provincial funding for post-secondary education has been in decline. A student at the beginning of the '90s may have been asked to foot 15 per cent of the bill for their education, while presently, one is asked to pay 24 per cent, which accounts for the lion's share of the steep fee slope we're climbing, some of us more than others.

And until the rest of Canada is convinced of the benefits they stand to receive from what we're doing here on campus, we, personally, are in trouble, as many of us won't find being here affordable as their support dwindles further. But, despite that personal risk, our minds should be with everybody else—if we're going to gain the funding of government, in the year 2002, we need to gain the sympathy of their constituents.

Gone are the times when Canadians granted their government permission to direct social policy on their own.

We then have to ask, publicly, and be able to answer a number of questions: how would us not being here affect those who aren't here? How does a student at the U of A help a worker at a North End auto body shop, Brenda at Hallmark Cards in West Edmonton Mall, or a Wabamun retiree enjoying her later years?

We're lucky there, because we know the answers—we design his wedding apparatus, write her cards, and invest her pension money, and if we're well-educated, we do it well. But how often do we remind the outside world that we're more than a final destination for their income tax dollars?

And the asking of that question is the especially difficult part—how do we bring the benefits of having a larger number of educated Albertans to the mind of the rest of Alberta?

Our Students' Union has started to do so, but it seems like not enough. In case you haven't noticed, they've spent \$200,000 or so in congress with the Council of Alberta University Students to bring advertisements to the *Edmonton Journal*, *Calgary Herald*, *Report* magazine, and a number of smaller Alberta papers. In terms: frightening statistics of the cost of education in Alberta, for future lawyers, doctors and writers, the costs presented as a deterrent to us seeing Alberta-made cures for blindness, or an Albertan Pulitzer Prize winner or Supreme Court justice.

The results, according to our Students' Union President, have been rewarding, incarnate in scads of telephone calls to Alberta Minister of Learning Lyle Oberg. I'll actually believe that.

But it's a small start, and not nearly a finish. There are more ways to draw lines connecting us and them, be it through instituting some form of community-service for course credits, or, as our Students' Union is doing right now, finding common ground with other community groups that we're already a part of, or have previously stayed away from.

And we're clever kids, let's not forget that. There are possibilities, lots of them.

We have a pair of years, perhaps, until the next provincial election, and before then, we have to make campus and the rest of the province, or indeed, the rest of the country, realize what we're doing here as being as good for them as it is for us. They're not going to realize it by themselves.

Our peaceful offensive of advertisements costs only \$200,000, lasted a month, and opened a few of Alberta's eyes. But we could, and must, go further. For their sake, and ours.

RAYMOND BEISINGER
Managing Editor

LETTERS

General Faculties Council decision flawed, inconsequential

Well, kudos to Alex Abboud ('SU asks faculties to cancel classes for protest march,' 26 November)! It's nice to see that when our SU makes a decisive push for something as admirable as a united march on legislature there are still people to guide us back into oblivion with words of restraint.

Fortunately, I cannot give all the credit to Alex, because there were many others who made up the 55 votes against the proposal of the GFC. Abboud has allowed me to attend three hours of what I judge to be the most crucial class of the entire university year. Without mid-January attendance, my entire semester could have been thrown into complete chaos.

In all honesty, Abboud is wrong—wrong to deride the Student's Union a chance to show a united front against tuition increases. Wrong to stifle sparks of change that have the possibility of igniting something much larger. Wrong to choose pessimism and marginalization over optimism and the belief that we can indeed change the forces.

Here's the thing though: class, now, ice and wind prevailing.

GRAHAM LETHBRIDGE
Engineering I

We must keep the Comparative Literature department

Why should we care about Comparative Literature? What makes us so special? What makes us so different from the English department that we need our own program?

As a specialist in Canadian literature, Comparative Literature offers a unique opportunity to study all of the literatures of Canada, and not just those written in English.

A colleague of mine focused his thesis on the teaching of Canadian literature across Canada. One of his findings was that when learning Canadian literature in an English department, the only works studied are works originally written in English. But what of literature written in French? Is this country produced? Spanish? Icelandic?

And the University of Alberta is no exception. The only place where students can learn about the whole of Canadian literatures is in the Comparative Literature department, where classes are given that include texts from different languages of origin.

Equally disturbing is the hypocrisy of the new trends in how literature is studied in English departments.

This spring, I attended a conference in Ottawa titled "Post-Colonialism and Pedagogy: Teaching Canadian Literature in the Classroom." All weekend, I heard talk of opening up the classroom, eliminating boards and barriers between students, teachers and literatures, achieving a greater understanding of literature as a whole, and not just in terms of nation.

But when I asked these scholars questions concerning post-colonial

theories and texts coming out of Québec, I was met with dismissals: we don't read French, we don't study those texts. In this age of globalization, how is it that scholars who preach inclusion make such glaring exclusions on the basis of language? And if we are leaving out Canadian literature in French in this context of inclusion, what other texts are being left out on a more global scale?

These are all questions that can and are being examined in the Comparative Literature department here at the U of A. With the goal of this University being to attract a more international body of students and put themselves forward as progressive in terms of globalization, why are they aiming to eliminate the one department that studies literature truly on a global scale?

If English departments are being selective in what literatures will be included in their view of the world, where can students go to get a more complete picture? The Department of Comparative Literature.

This is only one aspiring scholar's view of the situation, but I relish my opportunity to introduce students to the literatures of Canada, regardless of the language of origin, in order for them to gain a fuller understanding of this country. And I can be reassured that my colleagues are participating in the same project on a more global scale, ensuring that our students gain a fuller understanding of the literatures of the world. Fuller than they would ever have studying only texts originally in English.

LEE SKALLERUP
PhD Comparative Literature

SU President Hudema responds to Jenn Lepp

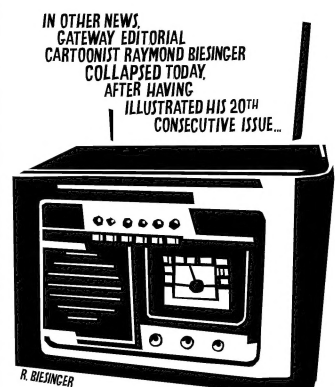
I take issue with some of the remarks made by Jenn Lepp in her letter to the *Gateway* last week ("Law Students' Association in favour of differential fees," 21 November).

Current law students will receive all the benefits of differential fees without having to pay for them, given that the proposal is grandfathered. The real issue is not whether the Faculty will be able to hire new staff in order to reduce class sizes—the issue is whether prospective students will be deterred from attending law or medical school because of the costs, and whether "high tuition" affects accessibility.

The resounding answer to that question here at the University of Alberta has been yes—our own student survey indicated that tuition is already too high and constitutes a barrier to access. The U of A Senate study *Degrees of Opportunity* concurred, as did Alberta Learning's recent poll of high-school graduates. Our own Students' Council has also passed a policy against differential tuition, precisely because of its impact on accessibility.

Studies from jurisdictions that have implemented differential tuition also indicate that accessibility has been compromised. The fact is that differential tuition in Ontario has been accompanied by some pretty serious side-effects for prospective and current law students and the legal profession itself.

Low-income classes have been affected—the University of Guelph has noted a 40 per cent drop in overall low-income participation since



tuition was differentiated. Course sections dealing with public interest research law have been cancelled, as students with insane levels of debt are far less likely to specialize in areas that are less well paid.

The Canadian Bar Association has joined up with seven other professional associations in order to lobby the federal government to take action on skyrocketing tuition, particularly in Ontario. Professional associations are seeing the results of the ill-conceived plan that is differential fees: diversity in the workforce, less ability to start one's own practice due to debt, more student stress, not enough student support, etc.

Differential tuition means the end of a common negotiating position on tuition for students. The University will no longer have to deal with one united voice—the Students' Union—when they jack our taxes on education, because each faculty will be facing something different.

Their strategy is divide and conquer—our strategy has to be to stem this tide before it gets any worse.

MIKE HUDEMA
President, Students' Union

Gun piece defective

This letter is in response to the *Gateway* opinion piece "A night at the range" (26 November) by Jocelyn Chase. Not only was this article rife with fear-mongering and anti-gun propaganda, but it also lacked any facts to back up the ideas expressed within.

First of all, Ms Chase, it's common knowledge that people who aspire to commit violent crimes usually don't put forth the time (about four or five months) or the money (about \$185) it takes to get a firearms license. Most criminals would simply cut to the chase and purchase a weapon on the black market.

I am licensed gun owner, and when I pick up my firearm, I am not limited to (a) hunting white-tailed deer, or (b) mowing down people. Guns (shotguns included) are used for control of pest species like coyotes, hunting game-like birds or deer, and for protection of person, or property. They are essential in rural areas where farmers and ranchers require them to run their opera-

tions.

In the future, I would be pleased to see a little more thought and a little less sensationalism go into articles like this.

IAN ARMSTRONG
Edmonton, Alberta

Drips could add to University savings

I'm one of those people who go to the gym every day and as such, I spend some time in the men's locker room in Van Vleet, and an item that has been bugging me for quite a while now is the amount of water that gets wasted by students and staff alike.

With the current focus on the U of A's mispending of funds, the role of students as active partners in trying to come up with cost saving solutions is being understated.

So, in the spirit of coming up with solutions rather than whining and pointing fingers, I present the following water saving ideas:

We should change the ancient showerhead nozzles to more efficient models and install messages above the sinks telling people to turn off the water when telling people to turn off the shower—it's amazing the number of people who stand there, water blasting as they slowly brush their foaming caulkholes. Or, for a more radical idea, install a card-swipe system that allows for five minutes' worth of water, per person, per day.

And to those who would state that these efforts wouldn't even be a "drop in the bucket," the only way to prove me wrong would be to try it.

DAVID DWYER
ENCS IV

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author; to be considered for publication.

Say no to tapered pants



TREVOR MILLER

It was Halloween a while ago.

On this particular day, I was taking my sweet time walking between classes, when one of my friends wandered over to say hello. And he ever dressed to the nines: ratty old sneakers, a dirty denim jacket, and pants that looked like they fell out of a time machine from the '80s: the taper was harsh.

After complimenting him on his courage to wear such an outfit, the blank look said it all. At that moment, it was all I could do to avoid curling up into a ball and collectively cursing all the Ancient Greek Gods I hold so dear.

It's times like this that make me quite embarrassed to be a man, guys. I admit, I'm no "Tommy Hilfiger" myself—I commit a fashion faux pas every time I look in the closet—but this rule is unbendable. Pants are not allowed to taper! No, no!

Here's a little text that you can use:

Step 1. Look down at your feet.

Step 2. If one or more were amputated due to lack of circulation, odds are, your pants are a little too much "innie," and not enough "outie."

If you find yourself in this particular situation, it is absolutely imperative that you remove your pants post-haste and place them in the nearest inciner-

ator. This is the most important part, as, come on, no hobo deserves such a punishment.

Then run to the nearest reputable clothing store and politely tell them that because your mommy usually buys your clothes for you, you don't have a clue what a good pair of jeans is.

Don't worry, they'll hold your hand and guide you through this toughest phase of "growing up."

Now, before you all start branding me, I'm a totally chick-digging man. I'm a man, though, who has been pushed too far, too many times. And let's face it, there's no way you're getting a Lovecakes by wearing those things, either.

I'm no "Tommy Hilfiger" myself—I commit a fashion faux pas every time I look in the closet—but this rule is unbendable.

It's time to make a challenge for the good of society. I urge you, the few educated members of our society, cast off your pants. Embrace the joy of being able easily put on your jeans in the morning, the tingling sensation of feeling your feet again, and the wonderment of not having people secretly laugh at you wherever you go.

Do it for yourself, do it for everyone around you.

But mostly, do it for me.

Good riddance, all



NEAL OZANO

Fuck. It's the summer of my discontent, as some Shakespeare guy would say, especially if by "discontent," he meant not giving two fucks about school any more. It's not that I don't still want good marks and accolades of screaming vowels to run up to me in celebratory reverence, but, frankly, I can't be bothered to try for any of that.

After eight and a half years, I'm three finals away from a debatably useless degree in Biological Sciences, and \$25,000 in the hole. I could have bought a fuckin' 2002 Toyota Camry for that much.

I'd sooner draw cats in my textbooks than study. I'd rather be drunk than in class. I'd much rather be sleeping in bed than in the library face down and gobbling on my books. And I know I'd rather drink lukewarm dihydroreals (sic) than buy another textbook, and I'd rather shove a railroad spike up my pee-hole than give another dime to Red Fraser's International Tour fund. Horrible images, but quite appropriate.

But still, I trudge on. It took all my mental fortitude (what little was left, anyway) not to draw Robocop in a touque all over my lab final on Tuesday. And I go to all my classes, but I'm pretty hard-pressed to understand, or, rather, care about, whatever whoever is talking about.

But, looking back, this really isn't anything new.

I'd have graduated after four years (rather than eight and a half) if I'd

found anything interesting enough to hold my attention for a semester. In fact, the last time I understood anything I was supposed to be learning was when we did vowels in grade two.

But now, despite my efforts to the contrary, it's almost done. No more school for me. Just a few rose-coloured memories, getting fatter, and dying. Right. And after 30 years of mindless trudge at some banal office position, where I sell my soul and bank on a fall down some stairs to end my life before computer-monitor cancer drags me slowly into the pits of hell, maybe I'll go to heaven.

It's painful surviving for so long in one place, though. It's like *The Green Mile*. Officer Tom Hanks of Folsom Prison (or whatever) lives forever and watching people and things he loves die.

All the nice old houses around the U of A have been crushed by condos that real (as in poor) students can't afford to fart by, let alone live in. Half the bars I used to go to don't exist any more. Remember when the Raven was on 104 Street and 83 Avenue, next to the Strat? Probably not. Remember the Basement Bar and Grille on 109 Street? Yep. Now it's a great place to park.

Remember when it was cool to be stupid? Remember when Dewey's wasn't a gutted, shitty, quiet, smokeless, barless, SU-raped, heartless room away from all the hustle and bustle of Mark Moores's ten-song set? All gone.

So, I suppose there's nothing left to do but move on. U of A, it's been a slice, but, for the sake of my sanity, and to ease my titchonophobia, I'm moving on. I'm seen sunshine, and I've seen rain, as James Taylor may or may not have said in some song about some ethereal trip.

My sentiments exactly. Bye.

Strong and Free? asks a few questionable questions



GEOFF MOYSA

There's something about the Global TV network that really bothers me.

Maybe I'm nostalgic for the days when it was just good old ITV, when Bill Matheson gave eccentric weather reports, Gord Steinke plugged his classic rock band, well before alien live queen J'syn Nye put her glassy head on national television. But as of late, the station's broadcasts are getting palpatibly sicker, taking on that homogenized AOL-Time-Warner sheen that seems to grow on news sets like well-produced mounds like media outlet ownership grows more and more concentrated.

It didn't hit me until this week while I was watching the 6pm news.

Shortly before airing an editorial tirade from conservative pundit Lorne Gunther, lambasting Canada for its ingratitude toward US foreign policy, Global National showed an instalment of a multi-part series entitled *Strong and Free?*, examining cases in which the individual rights and freedoms of normal citizens are egregiously plucked from their hands by the government.

It could be an interesting concept, if not for the laughably one-sided execution portraying the government as unjust oppressors bent on violating the sanctity of the individual.

Normally I'm all for promoting a watchdog function in the media, but

with this misguided agenda, it's positively alarming. We're living in a strange political reality these days, where any kind of farsighted social progress is at best given a back seat to the immediate present. Granted, after the atrocities of two Septembers ago and the violent and uncertain climate springing from them, this is only to be expected.

It could be an interesting concept, if not for the laughably one-sided execution portraying the government as unjust oppressors bent on violating the sanctity of the individual.

But not to this extent.

I'm talking more about the expectations of the individual and his or her simultaneous frustration with his or her bleak prospects for the future. It's curious that tuition is inexorably climbing here, when it's fairly safe bet that a more educated populace benefits everyone in the long run.

It's equally curious that such rabid placard wars around the Kyoto Accord and the idea of sustainable development when we know damn well that to continue on with our current consumption is to screw ourselves somewhere down the line—it's just a matter of when.

Blaming this on politicians and corporations is an easy and popular

pastime, but this "us versus them" framework is a fallacy, and one that clouds the real issue. Politicians are torn between the dual purposes of serving the public and keeping their jobs. Keep the public happy, and you're in for another four years.

That leads to some unfortunate outcomes when the general public remains so short-sighted. Most of us could think of hundreds of more constructive ways to invest the \$3-billion budget surplus Alberta enjoyed at the turn of the millennium, but I challenge you to find someone who didn't cash their \$300 energy rebate cheque. I challenge you further to remember how you spent the money.

So maybe it's more of a case of "us versus us." Politics is an ugly game, certainly, but part of the reason our elected officials can't look beyond the next four years is because we're so content with looking after ourselves right now.

That's why Global TV's new agenda is so puzzling and frightening: Canada has never shared as wholly in the staunch libertarian tradition of the United States, and I don't think it's something to aspire to. The semi-divine elevation of personal liberty as an end in itself may be appealing rhetoric, but pulling out the "freedom" card pre-empted debate on any number of serious issues, and mirrors us firmly in the short term.

Perhaps the question we should be asking is not, "How free are Canadians?" but, "How worthwhile are our freedoms?" Freedom for freedom's sake doesn't amount to much if we have to doubt our economic and social future.

Shania's lip-synching bothersome



JERED STUPFCO

glomerates, performers and singers are better off doing photo-shoots for Maxim, in-stores at Wal-Mart and interviews with *Access Hollywood* than actually rehearsing. And besides, why risk the possibility of losing album sales by actually singing "live" and missing a few notes, when you can just mouth along and sound all the better for it?

When Enrique Iglesias was confronted about what some suspected as lip-synching, he released a statement that read, "Unfortunately, there are many shows around the world that are not technologically advanced enough to handle a live performance, and so promotion of my music, sometimes I have to compromise in an effort to reach all the fans."

When musicians cease to actually perform their songs, they cease to be musicians. They become actors. Period.

Hey Enrique, maybe it's your voice that isn't "advanced enough to handle a live performance."

What's really spooky was that his management never even tried to deny it. And "compromise"? Do you think Dylan or Springsteen would ever be caught dead lip-synching at a live show? No way. Real musicians don't have to compromise.

My, how things have changed. We all know what happened with that whole Milli thing back in

1990; essentially, the Vanilli boys were robbed of a Grammy and a lucrative recording career because some studio hack squealed to the press. Besides posing for the album sleeve and thanking God in the liner notes, they had absolutely nothing to do with the making of the album that bore their name.

I heard Milli died a couple years ago too, or maybe it was Vanilli. Either way, it's a real shame, because if Milli Vanilli came out today, their producers wouldn't even have to hire surrogate singers—with the advances in digital recording technology, even Jennifer Lopez can sound pretty dang good on record.

Which is why I feel a distinction should be made. Not all pop stars are musicians. When musicians cease to actually perform their songs, they cease to be musicians. They become actors. Period.

So, beyond that, what if Shania was lip-synching? Does it really matter, at all?

In terms of the disposable, bottom-line-motivated, image-dominated world of pop music, no, it doesn't—but to the many struggling musicians out there, starving for their art and keepin' it real on a daily basis, it's a disgrace.

And thus, finishing off the last not-so-cold one in my six pack, I had a crazy thought: What if the Grey Cup organizers had flown in Rita McNeil to perform at half-time instead? She's Canadian!

And while she may not be as fun to look at as Shania, at least she'd have actually sung.

War has changed for the worse

No longer is there a difference between 'citizen' and 'soldier'



TYSON
DURST

Since two large jetliners slammed into two large buildings, in conjunction with other developments across the globe, a most fundamental shift has occurred on the psychological level: our concept of warfare has changed. Now, the distinction between innocent civilian and soldier has been obliterated.

Now, I can't fully accept the term "uniform" in that previous sense. Innocence as a state of mind, as a political state of being, for adults, cannot be taken seriously in this world that we've constructed for ourselves. The current state of the world is a testament to the responsibility that every-one bears.

I suppose we're still hanging onto the rulebook where men in uniform march off somewhere else to defend some abstract ideals when we say 'war.'

How then can anyone stand up and claim they are innocent?

Innocence might still be reserved for children, but even then, it's fleeting. There are many kids in this world *half* my age who can assemble an automatic weapon in the time that it takes you to read this article. I'm sure there are also many children who have used those weapons to take lives. Innocence is temporary. Beyond that, it's delusional.

For the moment, we will say there is still a line to be drawn between civilians and soldiers. Living in the West, we, of course, always need some kind of comfort zone to acclimate ourselves to new and greater horrors. I suppose the rationale might be something like, "As a civilian, I am separated from those who kill in order to preserve my freedoms and luxuries; therefore, I am also separated from responsibility. I'm not the one pulling the trigger."

But we all know better, don't we? I suppose we're still hanging onto the rulebook where men in uniform march off somewhere else to defend some abstract ideals when we say

"war." But, if war were understood in the twentieth century to be a contest among militaries and governments, then that book needs to be thrown away, because it is surely obsolete in the 21st century.

Of course, this one didn't erase simply by one day in New York. We've had two World Wars that gave us millions upon millions of civilian casualties, many of them being specifically targeted. Hiroshima and Nagasaki showed people that any future war would be a holocaust that would not bother to designate military versus civilian targets. It would simply end everything—past, present, and future. There can be no past if there's no one left to remember it.

Chemical and biological weapons are certainly no slouches either. Even the old-fashioned conventional bombs are pretty damned effective. Yes, there's a slight hitch that these weapons still can't discern "civilian" from "soldier" but let the media worry about those details.

After the Cold War—the one that never happened—the United States became the lone superpower, one that cannot be challenged in any direct military capacity now, or in the foreseeable future. To do so in the traditional sense would be to invite global annihilation, again, a consideration which rendered the traditional concept of war obsolete, long before the new age of terrorism came along.

But if there were any doubt, this year, that war, as we knew it, had gone out the window, we need only look at some recent events.

Earlier in October, while you were drinking some overpriced coffee so that you could keep studying your overpriced textbook, a group of Chechen rebels took over a theatre in Moscow and held over 750 people hostage. Terrorists according to the Russian government, freedom fighters to the Chechens. I suppose—these days, it just depends on whose propaganda you decide to buy into.

Now, the details tend to get rather sketchy in terms of what precisely happened. What we do know is that 119 hostages lost their lives along with the Chechens when Russian forces pumped Pantanin, a lethal chemical agent, into the theatre. The Russian president, Vladimir Putin, has demonstrated that he can be just as ruthless as his enemies, but then, what would you expect from an ex-KGB head? Apparently, 119 citizens were deemed the same as 119 soldiers in the statistics book for collateral damage.

And if you can pick apart the soldiers from the civilians in Israel, please give me a call. I've simply lost track of who did what to whom and when, but all too often, the bodies, or what's

left of them, seem to lack uniforms. I think the Israelis and the Palestinians may be starting to lose track, too. It seems that all they have left are tears and hatred.

I don't think that the explosion in Bali, Indonesia stopped to consider the finer points of the Geneva Convention and worry about civilians, either, when it claimed around 300 lives.

What were left with, really, is the line between civilian and soldier being drawn on paper and being fabricated in our minds. In reality, though, we are in a de facto state of perpetual war.

Of course, this line wasn't erased simply by one day in New York. We've had two World Wars that gave us millions upon millions of civilian casualties, many of them being specifically targeted.

I say perpetual because there can be no end date to this War on Terrorism—the enemy is always changing. Yesterday, it was Osama Bin Laden, today, it's Saddam Hussein. And now governments are looking to expand their surveillance powers over citizenry to unprecedented levels with the United States leading the way with a proposed Pentagon program known as Total Information Awareness being developed under the Homeland Security Act. Pretty soon, libraries are going to have to move George Orwell's 1984 into the non-fiction section.

Everyone is a soldier, whether they want to admit it or not, because they will always be targets, no matter who they are or where they are. What good is distinguishing civilian from soldier if one is now following those rules anymore? And the battlefield? The battlefield is now the entire sphere of land, sea, air, outer space, cyberspace, and all mediums capable of expressing information and controlling public consciousness.

I wish I could say this is just a joke and the punchline is on the way, but I'm afraid I don't have one. Not today. Today, I'm writing these words as I look at the world and find that I don't like what I see. I suppose I could buy some new glasses but that won't change the new scenario where peace seems to be dead, replaced by a war with no real beginning and no real end.

Dismissed.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN Ways to observe Buy Nothing Day

- 10 Get drunk on that homemade moonshine you've been saving for a special occasion.
- 9 Go to McDonald's and order an extra-large bag of fries.
- 8 Hold a contest for your homeys to see who can make the best homemade bling-bling out of things found in the forest.
- 7 Meticulously plan a bitchin' shopping trip for the next day, AKA Buy Twice as Much Day.
- 6 Walk up to the sales counter of a department store with an armload of merch, yell "Psych!" and run away laughing.
- 5 Dig up your old Dire Straits albums and listen to "Money For Nothing" over and over again until Mark Knopfer comes to you in a vision with a solution to rampant consumerism.
- 4 Live off the land, kill and eat your neighbor's cat.
- 3 Spend the day at Tim Hortons...oh wait, never mind, that's Buy Muffin Day.
- 2 Waddle around with your pants pockets pulled out, just like an old-timey hobo.
- 1 Beat the Monopoly guy to death with a tire iron.

THE BURLAP SACK

Penny-loaned meher bike, a gorgeous old bomber black and red, with a flat-styled front fork and a cushy seat. The trick was, it was in front of the Legion on 81 Avenue, and I had to get it.

No problem. So I did. But when I got it, it had the shape beat out of it. Guess where whoever did that is gonna go? Sackville? You guessed right.

RAYMOND BIESINGER

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

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Student Group of the Month

The UofA Accounting Club

(UAAC) has been operating for over 30 years and has worked hard to serve as a liaison between accounting students and the accounting profession. UAAC hosts a number of information sessions, creates networking opportunities, and prepares recruiting materials that are distributed to its members.

In addition to student-focused activities, the Club also tries to make a contribution to its community. Every March the club runs the Volunteer Income Tax Preparation Program in which it prepares and files income tax returns for seniors, students, and other low-income members of the community. Last year the program was a great success and over 100 student volunteers from a variety of faculties prepared over 1200 returns during the month of March. This year the Club is arranging a program with the Boyle Street Cooperative where its members will help do everything from preparing tax returns to helping serve meals in the soup kitchen.

If you have more questions for this group or want to know how to get involved, please email uaac@ualberta.ca

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11 September cards smell like home-grown American propaganda



ADAM
ROZENHAFT

I heard someone remark that, in North America, we're fortunate enough to not be subjected to constant propaganda from our governments—the kind that is rampant in nations like Iraq and North Korea. I sort of chuckled and asked what sort of news program they watched. CNN, was the reply.

That conversation took place about six months ago, and I still laugh at it. But allow me for a moment to be a hypocrite and tell you about something I read on CNN.com: apparently, a patriotic American named Kingsley Barham has created 11 September trading cards, 200 of them. Of the entire collection, 170 of the cards focus on the victims of 11 September, and the rest focus on memorials that have been erected since the attack.

Barham is, perhaps, a noble person given that some of the cards' profits will be donated to the families of the victims. But not only is he capitalizing on a terrible loss, he's also contributing to the increasingly rampant distribution of propaganda in the US

and in other so-called "freedom-loving nations." What's worse, he likely doesn't even realize it.

Whether you're aware of it, it shouldn't surprise you to hear we aren't immune to the propaganda machine. With big networks assigning catchy titles to horrific events, such as America's New War or the War on Terror, they're developing a product that will be easier for us to consume and accept as normal, good, and just.

I mean, no matter how much everyone in the NHL circa 1987 really hated the Philadelphia Flyers, you could still count on O-Pee-Chee giving you the full Flyers roster, including that fucking bastard goalie Ron Hextall.

The shitty part is that they're also doing all the thinking for us, and frankly, I don't like how they're thinking for us. There's a slant.

And as important as it is to fix slanted floors or slanted houses, the slanted news stories worry me the most. The American networks (and the CBC isn't

immune to this either) put spins on their stories, dramatic spins that colour these so-called unbiased news reports. We're forced to see this information, spun with subtle editorials or irritating emotional angles, all done to "put a face" on what's happening.

We don't need to think; they're formulating biases and opinions for us.

If the 11 September card-makers really wanted to give the whole story, then they'd include cards for the victims of the Afghanistan carpet-bombing campaign. They'd have cards and statistics on the terrorist suspects that were bombed by a US air drone in Yemen. They'd include information on all the people killed by US friendly fire. Or at least they would if they were presenting an unbiased view of events leading up to and following 11 September, 2001.

I mean, no matter how much everyone in the NHL circa 1987 really hated the Philadelphia Flyers, you could still count on O-Pee-Chee giving you the full Flyers roster, including that fucking bastard goalie Ron Hextall.

I guess I shouldn't be surprised by the biased nature of these trading cards. We, as "enlightened" North Americans, have a scary tendency to ignore unpleasant reality to our actions. And as long as we continue to do so, we'll only be getting half the story, and we'll never have the full collection of cards we so greatly desire.

Vote well with your holiday shopping dollars



PAUL
REINE

According to the laws of supply and demand, those votes are heard, and I'd like to suggest that it isn't difficult to be an informed voter, to know what you're buying, and thus, to vote responsibly.

So, what do we look for? Who makes it and where it's made are the big issues, I think, and if you're going to do it right, you may as well think about where you're buying it.

We have to keep in mind that, by the time products have hit the shelf at our local mart, they've already had an effect on some people and places.

What I mean is: if you buy locally, you support your community and the money in it, you keep your dollars in it so they help maintain the quality of your schools, your education and your parks, not to mention that it encourages less transport of goods, and therefore, less pollution. A healthy downtown is a beautiful thing, because not only do thriving small businesses make it a more practical place to live, but they also have a vested interest in improving and maintaining the community.

If you think this is a dead wave, swing by the Farmers' Market near Whyte Avenue on a Saturday morning and see how many people would rather be part of a community than feed the next faceless chain store and send their money out of the community.

If you try to keep yourself somewhat informed, then you'll know which producers you can trust to keep good environmental practices, and which ones treat their workers well.

To give a few examples, when it comes to clothing, LRG & Co

and American Apparel both have great employee treatment policies, and Patagonia contributes 10 per cent of their annual profits to environmental groups. Much of Carhart's products are union-made, and both Sogoi and Anetrix maintain good labour standards and manufacture their products in Vancouver.

You've all heard stories about Nike, Reebok, Levi's, and other producers who might have shady practices and weak standards. It's often hard to find objective reports on these companies because the information is buried, but I think it's safe to assume that if a major corporation moves its manufacturing operations to a country with abysmally low labour and environmental standards, they're doing it for a reason. I'd say it's a good bet that there might be the odd six-year-old working seven 14-hour shifts per week in a factory without proper ventilation or emissions control. Think about it.

Examples of clothing chains with manufacturing operations in countries other than poor track records include the Fisher-family trio: The Gap, Banana Republic, and Old Navy. By coincidence, the Fisher family is also currently logging some of the last remaining Redwood forest in California.

Products made almost anywhere other than the First World are a gamble. And if you think sweatshops bring money to poor countries, I can suggest that sweatshops bring dependence and pollution to poor countries, and the money still goes to rich countries.

My point is, I think that intelligent conscientious people can recognize that it matters where their money goes, and that it isn't that hard to make ethical choices. If you aren't used to looking at labels for "made in Canada," or "made in the USA" or "by a union," then what better occasion to start choosing with care than when searching out something for someone you care about.

HOME GAMES

Hockey — *Clare Drake Arena*

Friday, 29 Nov Bears vs Regina, 7:30pm
Saturday, 30 Nov Bears vs Regina, 7:30pm

Basketball — *Main Gym*

Friday, 29 Nov Pandas vs Lethbridge, 6:30pm
Bears vs Lethbridge, 8:15pm
Saturday, 30 Nov Pandas vs Lethbridge, 6:30pm
Bears vs Lethbridge, 8:15pm

ATHLETIC NOTES

Swimming

Annamay Piers, Marla Breikreutz, Shannon Frey, Gord McKay and Maciek Zielinski will be attending the Canadian Open Championships beginning Thursday at Edmonton's Kinsmen Aquatic centre. The Bears and Pandas will also be participating in the Prairie Winter Invitational Thursday through Sunday in Winnipeg.



FILE PHOTO: MAYVLE LOVELAND

The Bears are undefeated in conference play.

Volleyball

The number-one-ranked Thunderbirds serve up a set of games in Vancouver this weekend against the fourth-ranked **Pandas (7-3)**. The Green and Gold girls went winless in their six matches against UBC last year, so expect our finest females to be in for a tough battle out west this weekend.

The **Bears (10-0)** are also in Vancouver, defending their top-spot ranking against the Thunderbirds, who are currently ranked ninth in Canada West. After sweeping UBC in the last six games at home in November, and taking all four matches last season, the Bears look in good form for their weekend matchups.

Hockey

Clare Drake's home ice will see the **Bears (11-2-1)** hosting the Regina Cougars Friday and Saturday night. Alberta's Kevin Marsh (7G, 11A) and Steve Shrum (8G, 9A) will be looking to cinch the gap in points as they rival Jeff Neufeld (6G, 17A) of the Pronghorns for lead scorer in Canada West.

The number-one-ranked **Pandas (10-0-0)** will face off against the UBC Thunderbirds with a pair of games in Vancouver over the weekend. The pre-Christmas conference schedule will finish up on Saturday with Danielle Bourgeois hoping to lead the team to another victory after scoring eleven points against the Thunderbirds last weekend.

Basketball

Both the **Bears (3-3)** and the **Pandas (2-4)** host their respective Pronghorn team in the Main Gym this weekend.

The injury-plagued women might have a tougher time than they should against the lowly 'Horns, with Christine Sheuchuk, Diane Smith and Melissa Penner out with injuries.

Compiled by Heather Adler

Inexperienced B-ball men must learn closing skills

BRENDAN PROCE
Sports Editor

"A lot of stupid errors" is how Bears basketball head coach Don Horwood described his team's performance on Saturday in Saskatoon last weekend.

"We missed the easy shots. We were within reach of a win but fell short." After a 90-79 win on Friday against the hometown Huskies, the Bears were outplayed on Saturday, losing 94-72. The team's problem is inexperience. "We'll get things straightened out, but the problem right now is that some of the younger players are reverting to the way they've always played. What we need them to do is play by the Bears system."

This weekend's series, at home against the 2-4 Lethbridge Pronghorns, will be an important marker for the squad: the next conference games aren't until January.

"We're finding it harder to string together wins," said the coach. "We're going through a learning phase."

Last season, the team was 9-1 at the Christmas break.

"We need more consistency," said Horwood. "We need to come out playing both nights."

The mood at practice on Wednesday was intense, and the coach's orders seem to be well received. Next season's starting QB and basket-

ball forward Darryl Salmon said the team just needs time to come together.

"We just need time to get to know one another, to get with each other's games. As for what's happening right now, I wish I could say. Maybe we're too excited? Not excited enough?"

Fourth-year guard Phil Scherer, who leads the team in scoring, had some more concrete suggestions to improve the team's play.

"I'm one of the guys who needs to get the tone for the guys [being one of the seniors on the team]. We also need Phil Sudol to play every game. He seems to be on when we're winning, but not as noticeable when we're losing."

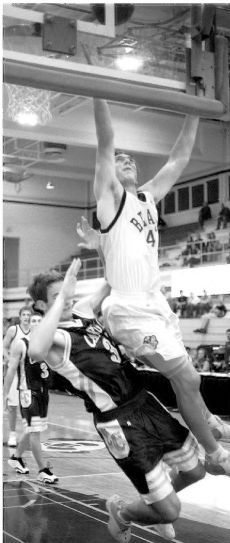
Sudol, a second-year post, is third on the team in scoring. Scherer speculated that it might be the pressure that's being put on him to score that's affecting his performance.

"And you know, we should be 5-1," said Scherer. "UBC won on an air ball back on 9 November, and during the Calgary game on 16 November, we came back but we couldn't seal it up. Such is the ebb and flow of sports, though."

The team isn't concerned about a jinx, despite their pattern of winning on Fridays but losing on Saturdays this season. Their record is 3-3.

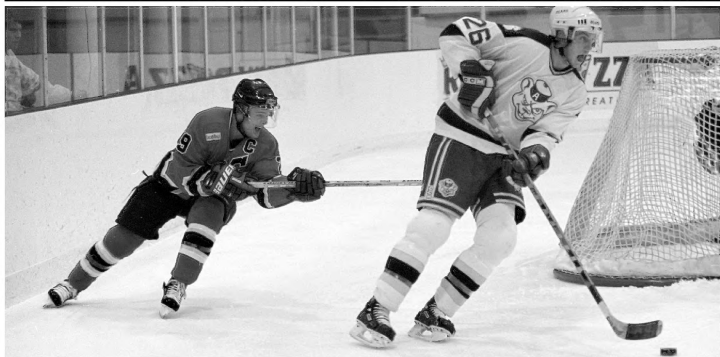
"It's too early for a jinx," said Salmon with a grin.

They'll tip-off against Lethbridge in at Main Gym this Friday and Saturday at 8:15pm. Both games can be heard on anysportanytime.com.



FILE PHOTO: LAUREN JENNINGS

The Bears have flair, but need to close games.



FILE PHOTO: MARCUS BENICE

Curtis Rich (26) and the Bears are having much success with their "Rat" and "Houng Dog" lines, the former with 47 points on the season so far.

Line combos integral to Puck Bears' winning form

BRYAN LEE
Sports Writer

Like any "normal" Canadian, I enjoy my hockey and my beer. As an accountant though, the humdrum in me also incorporates concepts to related situations.

When talking with Bears winger Jonathan Hobson about line combinations, intangible assets spring to mind. In accounting terms, these are benefits that can't really be measured or sold separately outside an entity. As such, they are poorly valued within our historical cost principles.

All the same, such benefits are paying dividends for the Bears. The "Rat" line of Wade Burt, Steve Shrum and Tyler Shlyubka is once again producing, with a combined 47 points in 14 games.

Joining these players in the Canada West scoring top ten are Kevin Marsh and Kris Knoblauch, who along with Ryan Wade, make up another dangerous scoring unit. This collection of fourth-year snipers has 43 points so far.

"That's what hockey's all about: who you're playing with. And it's not so much a matter of whether your linemate is a good player. It's such a team-oriented game, so it's more a matter of whether you can play well together," Hobson explained, emphasizing the importance of on-ice chemistry.

Along with centre Brad Tutschek and rookie Scott Henkelman, Hobson is part of the "Hound Dog" line, which has also been stepping up since it was put together a month ago. Tutschek had a trio of markers against Calgary, and the line notched two goals in the Friday matches versus Saskatchewan and UBC.

Of course, this isn't the first time I've attempted (foolishly attempted?) to apply business topics to sports coverage. A few years ago, I related Keynesian economic theory to a Pandas volleyball preview. The point is that, although I use these notions rarely, when I do it's usually for good reason. With an 11-2-1 record and a preserved number-one ranking, these subtle qualities have clearly been critical success factors.

The other advantage the Bears have going their

way has been the ability get ahead early. The team hopes to keep the momentum as it concludes the first half at home this weekend against the Regina Cougars (4-9-1).

"Regina works really hard. They're a well-disciplined team that doesn't quit. We're going to have to be on our game to be successful," noted a focused Blair St. Martin. The Cougars profited from an early season tie in their last game with Alberta.

Raceoffs are at 7:30pm on Friday and Saturday this weekend at the Drake. Friday's game is on CJSR FM88.

WEST-BOUND PANDAS

After outscoring UBC 25-1 over two games, the Pandas square off against the same feeble T-Birds team in Vancouver again this weekend.

Twelve different players scored in the two shootouts, including rookie Taryn Barry, who scored her first as a Panda.

"It was hurting there, not getting goals. It was more like a 'finally' to me than excitement," Barry said.



RUNNING LOW The visiting 'Horns get to play a less-than-full Pandas team. FILE PHOTO: KATE WADE

Injuries swaying Pandas hoopsters from win column

BRENDAN POPE
Sports Editor

The basketball Pandas aren't all they can be.

Stumbling off the block to a 2-4 start, the team has a list of injuries to add to their losing record. Star forward Christine Shevchuk, guard Diane Smith and forward Melissa Penner are all off the court.

What's more, there's a tendency in sport to lose against the lesser teams when things are going badly. And at 2-4 in Canada West play this season, the Pandas aren't taking anything for granted. "We're not taking Lethbridge lightly this weekend," their record might be worse, but this is a tough conference.

To make up for lost ammunition, the Pandas will be drawing from the reserves for this weekend.

"Justine Stenger hasn't been in a

game for us yet this season, but she played an important role on the team last season," said head coach Trix Baker. The second-year forward executed smoothly in practice on Wednesday.

"We also need some of our vets, like Cristi Allan and Amanda Smith, to step up."

Like the Bears basketball squad, the Pandas were in better shape at this time last season, at 6-2 in conference play.

"You know, back when [Pandas volleyball coach] Laurie Eisler won six consecutive championships (from 1994-1995 through 1999-2000), she didn't do it without adversity," said Baker.

Plans for success this weekend are simple enough. "If we'd shot the ball against the Huskies last weekend, we'd have won," said the coach.

The team has home advantage this weekend, and will set to the courts at 6:30pm on both Friday and Saturday.

Private clubs alright in the golf world

Augusta National and Ladies Golf Club are allowable gender-exclusive courses



MATTHEW BLACK

Sports
Commentary

It appears that one of the oldest "old boys clubs" of the sports world is not immune to gender equalization.

In recent weeks, a group of women filed numerous lawsuits trying to get the Augusta National Golf Course to alter its rules and permit the inclusion of women as members.

Augusta National is regarded in the state of Georgia as a national treasure and is treated with a level of reverence and respect unparalleled anywhere in the American south. Augusta is home to the annual Masters golf tournament every spring and is widely regarded as one of the world's greatest golf courses.

Obviously, gender equality is a good thing. Also evident is that women still get discriminated against in a variety of fields and I salute those who try to break through social barriers to gain equality.

But not in this case.

Before you slam this column back down my throat calling me a sexist bastard, allow me to elaborate: Augusta National is a private club.

The key term here is private. That means they admit who they want to admit. The lawsuits-filing group seems reluctant to admit that, each year, hundreds of men who apply to Augusta are turned down. And judging from the statements of club chairman Hootie

Johnson, members are happy with the current membership criterion, so why bow to the pressure?

Sports Illustrated's Rick Reilly even found a women-only golf club outside of Toronto, of all places. That's right, the Ladies Golf Club of Toronto only accepts female members. Men aren't even allowed on the grounds unless directly accompanied by a member.

Should a man be lucky enough to play the magnificent course, he'll have to put up with restricted tee times, extra fees, a different parking lot, a shack of a locker room, and constant finger pointing from the women members.

Should a man be lucky enough to play the magnificent course, he'll have to put up with restricted tee times, extra fees, a different parking lot, a shack of a locker room, and constant finger pointing from the women members.

The point here is that if women can have a beautiful golf course where they can be exclusively with women, why can't men?

True, the same group who is spearheading changes at Augusta National may well spearhead a similar action towards the Ladies Golf Club of Toronto, but I don't see that happening

any time soon.

In both cases, the golf clubs in question serve as private retreats for their members.

Few men have trouble with the idea of a girls' night out, and likewise few women have issues with a men's night out. The best way to view both Augusta and the Ladies Club is as nothing more than a perpetual night out.

Of course the right to exclude on the basis of gender is a highly contentious point, but it can be compared to a homeowner deciding who they want in their home.

True, it is unlikely that a homeowner will face public pressure to allow a given group into their residence, but like a homeowner, a club has the right to pick and choose who they want to enter.

Also like a home, a private club is run by its members and they should not be told how to control it.

You don't see Mayor Bill Smith on anyone's doorstep telling them how to use their furnace.

Let's not forget that neither the Ladies Club nor Augusta is a public facility and thus is spared, at least legally, from gender equality laws.

It would probably be correct to say that both clubs are social anomalies. No matter how you cut it, they are discriminatory organizations that stand out in a world of political correctness.

But that does not mean they do not have a basis for their claims to exclusion. Until such time that the members of each club feel it acceptable to have a member of the opposite sex in their space, we should respect their rights as private institutions to run things as they would like.



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What a fantastic weekend of Grey Cups!



JOEL CHURY

Rambblings from Moose Lodge

Writer's note: With the onslaught of assignments I have due this week, I figured that I wouldn't have time to finish an article. Unfortunately, my tyrannical Sports Editor insisted on my writing a comment on the Grey Cup game. Because I wrote this article before the game was actually played, I took the liberty of writing several different outcomes for the game to cover my ass.

OUTCOME 'A'

Not since the BC Lions defeated the Baltimore CFLers has a host city's team won the Grey Cup. That is until this past weekend.

On a beautiful (or lousy) evening at Commonwealth Stadium, the hometown Eskis triumphed over the Montréal Alouettes. In what may have been the most clutch game of pivot Ricky Ray's (or Jason Masz) career, the Eskimos' offense were able to dominate (or barely edge out) the Alouettes' defence in order to secure the victory. That late (or early) game touchdown (field goal, safety, or rouge) was all the Eskimos needed to earn their new Grey Cup rings.

Tom Higgins called a great game, taking advantage of every field goal opportunity and only calling third-down plays when they were totally necessary.

This win would've been even greater for Edmonton if not for the ensuing riots on Whyte Avenue. Who would have thought that a Grey Cup win was so desperately needed to boost the spirits of this city's sports fans?

Now we have bragging rights over the league for the next twelve months. Congratulations, boys, on a job well done.

OUTCOME 'B'

Not since the BC Lions defeated the Baltimore CFLers has a host city's team won the Grey Cup. That feat still stands as the Eskimos lost to the mighty Alouettes.

It was a sad walk for the 60 000-plus fans that trudged out of Commonwealth Stadium on Sunday night. Seeing the Cup hoisted by the visitors was a disheartening sight, but it's all part of the game. The better team, and we as Eskimos fans must tip our hats to the game they gave us.

Anthony Calvillo (or Lawrence Phillips) managed to win the most outstanding player award, and gave an amazing performance to do so. It was nice to see the people of Montréal have something to cheer about, and the clips of the Québec sports bars displayed that.

Everyone hates streakers, and now they will never be tolerated again thanks to the hundreds of idiots who ruined a perfectly good game. I said to myself after they caught the first guy, "This'll be it!" but they just kept jumping the railings.

Edmonton fans were treated to a heartwarming (or lip-synched) performance by country star Shania Twain that may have prevented the night from being a total disappointment.

The Eskimos will have another shot in the future, and we will be humble (yet bold) going into that game, keeping this weekend's experience in our memory banks.

OUTCOME 'C'

Not since the BC Lions defeated the Baltimore CFLers has a host city's team won the Grey Cup. That feat is still intact, though, after this wacky weekend's wacky finish. What a surprise ending to such a hard-fought game.

I don't think any football fan knew about the rulebook's dealing with draws. I would have at least thought they would play more overtime, but I guess that they have to call the game after 5 overtimes, for that's what the 'ol' book said. There are probably two lucky, rich guys sitting out there who

actually bet on a tie game for the Grey Cup.

This has got to be a black eye on the league, for no self-respecting fan likes ties. I thought this kind of thing only happened in MLB All-Star games.

But to break the Cup into two pieces and hand each team a chunk was tasteless. What a horrible way for the tradition to end, after 90 glorious years.

Through the overtimes were exciting, most fans assumed that someone was going to score. Missed field goal after missed field goal (or dropped pass after dropped pass) caused this game to go into the history books as being the longest football marathon in the league's history.

Canada will take a while to recover from the nation-wide riot that ensued. Who knew that a decision on a football game would cause a revolt in Montréal that would instantly sway the separatist vote, and thus have Canada finally lose Québec earlier this week? What a sad turn of events for Canadians.

OUTCOME 'D'

Not since the BC Lions defeated the Baltimore CFLers has a host city's team won the Grey Cup. I guess we will have to wait to see if that will stand, as the game will continue this weekend at Skydome. After all the planning that went into this weekend's game, it was sad to have the game cancelled and rescheduled because of streakers.

Everyone hates streakers, and now they will never be tolerated again thanks to the hundreds of idiots who ruined a perfectly good game. I said to myself after they caught the first guy, "This'll be it!" but they just kept jumping the railings.

After the first quarter ended there was hardly anyone sitting in the first ten rows of the stadium. I guess people knew bad news was coming when hundreds showed up to the game wearing tear-away track pants and Montréal Concorde togas.

I never thought that our fair city would produce so many careless fans. The horrific sight of clothes, skin and red socks on the field will forever burn in my memory.

Skydome officials have been instructed to keep anyone from entering the building, as the game will be completed in front of an empty stadium this weekend.

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Better logos make better hockey players



DANIEL KASZOW

Sports
Commentary

Do you remember when the San Jose Sharks entered the National Hockey League? As a team they were pretty lame, as most expansion teams are, but they had a cool team logo.

The icon that adorned the chest of each San Jose player showed a bad ass shark biting a hockey stick in two, which made every kid on the block want Sharks jerseys, hats, hoodies and Underoos. The coolness of the Sharks logo allowed them to raise their standards as a team and become competitive more quickly than a normal expansion team should have.

Now it may seem a little bit zany that a jersey would have massive effect on the performance of team, but I contend that if a player doesn't feel like he looks good on the ice then he won't play his best hockey.

Picking a cool team logo and jersey

is one of the most important parts of an emerging sports franchise. Nobody wants to have a wussy uniform; it makes your team look like a pack of losers.

The Nashville Predators had a decent first season. They performed above the expectations set for them as an expansion team. Why? Because their giant sabre-toothed beast on their chest scared the crap out of the other teams.

However, they didn't capitalize on this growth because of their third jersey, which looks like a pair of first grader's PJs. Now the Preds are still pretty much where they were when they entered the league.

The fact that the Boston Bruins are doing so well this year is absolutely amazing. It may have to do with the fact that their third jersey looks less ugly than it did last year. Now it is dull yellow instead of piss yellow and has more black. If they could just get rid of the stupid-looking bear on the front, they might have chance at the Cup.

In the '70s and '80s, the Los Angeles Kings had the ugliest monstrosity to ever be called a jersey. Wearing those monkey suits would have been more appropriate in a disco club than on the

ice. You certainly don't see any Stanley Cups from that period of the Kings' history.

The clearest example of a team that underperforms because of their jersey is the Mighty Ducks. Despite having many good players over the years, the Ducks have never played up to the calibre of talent they house. Personally, I think this is because all of the players on the Ducks team would be secretly embarrassed to ever hold the Stanley Cup over their shoulders with the image of a hockey mask shaped like a Disney cartoon duck on their chest.

On the other end of the spectrum, the Minnesota Wild have a bad ass logo. It features a pouncing creature mixed in the wilderness and the setting sun. The Wild players probably look down at their chests and think, "Damn, I'm a mof!" and go out butt-kicking. Is it a coincidence that they only have two years under their belts and are doing so well? I think not.

Now, some of these team faults could have been the result of a other factors, like team dynamics, coaching, and player skill, but even the worst player looks like a winner when he's well-dressed.

Supplementary Bursary

Applications will be available at our office starting December 2nd.

Institutional Opportunity Bursary

Notifications have been sent via email to your CNS account. Cheques will be at our office starting December 2nd.

Access Fund

Access Fund cheques will be ready for pickup on December 3rd.



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3-80 SUB

8.30 to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday

Buy Nothing Day

This Arm brought to you by →



And the shopping Frenzy BEGINS...

The day after American Thanksgiving, this year falling on 29 November, has traditionally been the busiest shopping day of the year, and marks the unofficial start of the Christmas spending season, when millions of North Americans drain their bank accounts in pursuit of the latest in gadgetry and fashion.

To those who refuse to give in to the commercial pressures to indulge in rampant material gluttony typical of this time of year, however, 29 November is Buy Nothing Day, a day of creative resistance against the rapacious consumerism plaguing the continent.

Consumers the world over are encouraged to declare a 24-hour moratorium on spending on Buy Nothing Day, one of the annual awareness campaigns perpetuated by the Adbusters Media Foundation based in Vancouver, which also established TV Turn-Off Week and publishes the bi-monthly *Adbusters* magazine.

Kalle Lasn, founder of Adbusters, describes Buy Nothing Day as an event of introspective discovery:

"It's a day when you make a little personal pact with yourself that you're not going to buy anything whatsoever, and it's kind of a bit of a psychological experiment to find out how it feels. For a lot of people, it's quite a profound little psycho-journey. They discover that it's a lot more difficult than they first imagined, and they learn something about the power of this impulse to buy, that maybe for the whole of their lives up to that point, they've

always just satisfied whenever it comes along."

To Lasn, unbridled consumerism isn't merely a problem; it's no short of an addiction, and the withdrawal brought on by the 24-hour fast is too potent for some to handle. "Many people give up halfway through the day because they just can't hack it. They can't just go cold-turkey on consumption."

For those who make it through Buy Nothing Day successfully, however, especially if it's the first time they've celebrated the event, the experience can be cathartic and rejuvenating. "Many other people get through the day and feel wonderful, like they've learned something about themselves, and then they go ahead and actually start thinking about having a different kind of a Christmas this year, and some people even start changing their lifestyles."

Lasn emphasizes that it's not the economic impact of celebrating Buy

Nothing Day that's most significant; rather, it's the awareness of our consumer culture and the debate and movement toward change that Buy Nothing Day generates.

"Buy Nothing Day gets you thinking about sustainable consumption," he explains. "It gets you thinking about how overconsumption is the mother of all our environmental problems; it gets you thinking about advertising and what impact it has on you to live in a culture that forces 3000 marketing messages into your brain every 24 hours, and for many people, it's an opening into a lifestyle that's a little bit more confrontational, a little bit more counter-consumer-culture. For some people, Buy Nothing Day is the beginning of a whole period in their lives when they become activists."

The idea for Buy Nothing Day was spawned from a desire to reclaim our culture from the corporations and concentrated mass media that were manip-

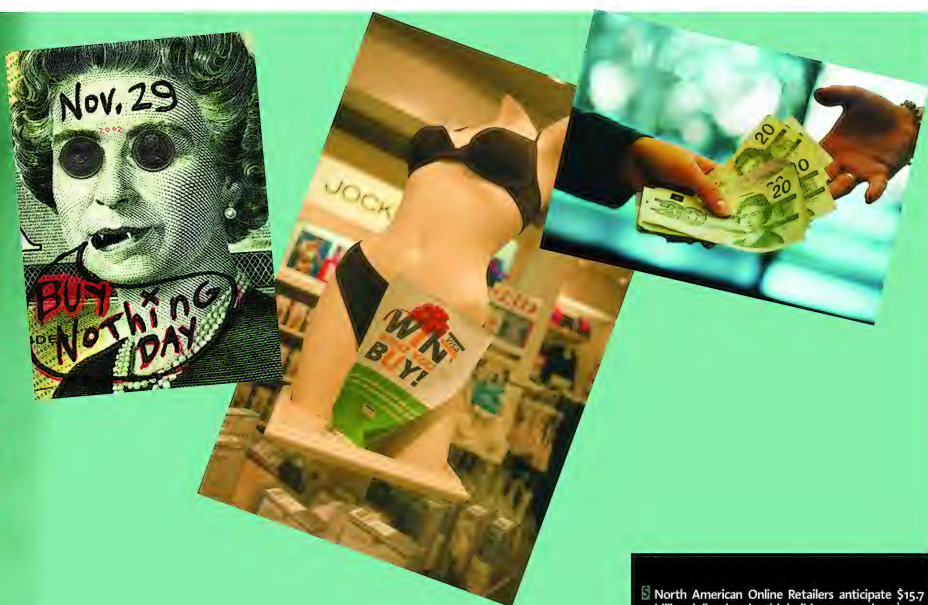
ulating the images we see and filtering the information we receive. "At the beginning, we were a bunch of burnt-out feminists, and burnt-out environmentalists, and burnt-out lefties ... and we were really kind of feeling that all these old ways of thinking about things and all these old movements had maybe done a lot of good in the past but now they were kind of boring and weren't getting anywhere, and we all felt, this little group of ours, that the next battleground would be culture," Lasn explains.

"We felt that our culture was somehow being taken away from us, that back in the old days, we used to sing songs and tell stories and generate our culture from the bottom up, and suddenly, we were more and more living in a culture where it was being forced to us ... We felt that we needed to start a movement that we called 'culture jamming,' a movement to take back our culture from the people who had hijacked it."

After some brainstorming, the concept for Buy Nothing Day was solidified after Vancouver artist Ted Dave coined the title, and Adbusters launched the campaign through their magazine in 1991. "Those three words had a sort of a magic ring about them right from the start," says Lasn. And over the past eleven years, Buy Nothing Day has evolved from a local grassroots movement in the Pacific Northwest to a global phenomenon celebrated in 60 countries around the world.

The event saw a surge in interest in





the mid-'90s when Adbusters was able to reach an extensive audience through the Internet, and today, Lasn says excitedly, "It's like the next Earth day."

However, Adbusters has encountered its share of resistance to Buy Nothing Day, especially from major television networks who have refused to allow the group to advertise Buy Nothing Day. "Up to this day, CBC Newsworld, ABC, NBC, CBS networks in New York, they have systematically and year after year refused to sell us any airtime whatsoever."

CNN has been notably more receptive: a few years ago, the network began selling airtime for a Buy Nothing Day spot, Adbusters' now-famous "burping pig" ad. This year, Adbusters raised \$18 000 USD to air the ad during Lou Dobbs Moneyline, a popular CNN business program. "It's the biggest TV jam we've been able to pull off; you know, to sort of go right into a business show and air our Buy Nothing Day message there and give those businessmen a bit of a moment of truth," Lasn quips.

Although Buy Nothing Day is nominally a 24-hour event, its philosophy is evidently meant to be extended through the holidays and the rest of the year. The Adbusters website suggests ways to perpetuate sustainable consumption through the spending season, including gift exemption vouchers that friends can exchange as part of a pledge to refrain from swapping presents. It's time that we stop listening to the messages that make us feel guilty for not maxing out our credit cards on lavish material gifts, claims Lasn.

The momentum that Buy Nothing Day has gained since its inception has Lasn anticipating invigorating change and taking a remarkably hopeful and optimistic perspective on the world. "I was surprised in the first few years [by the enthusiasm for Buy Nothing Day], but now, there seems to be a shock to the status quo every second month. There was the battle in Seattle ... and a wave of activism throughout the planet, and then there was 11 September that made everybody rethink their lives, and then there was the corporate crime wave ... and now the global economy that's threatening to collapse, so we're really living in an age when something big is about to happen."

"Buy Nothing Day is one very important part of a whole movement to change the status quo," stresses Lasn. "And I would like students, who are really the people who are creating the future; I hope that they not only buy nothing on Buy Nothing Day ... but I hope they look at this new activism that's running around the planet and become part of that."



BOOK BY IVA DINGLING
PHOTOS BY DIK BOLIANATZ & DAWN BERTIN
SELECT IMAGES FROM WWW.ADBUSTERS.ORG

1. North American Online Retailers anticipate \$15.7 billion dollars in sales this holiday season alone.¹

2. Already the world's largest employer with over 1 million associates, Wal-Mart displaced oil giant ExxonMobil as the world's largest company when it posted \$219 billion in sales for fiscal 2001.

3. Mattel, celebrating its 50th anniversary, began when founders Harold Matson and Elliot Handler used scrap materials to make doll furniture in a garage in Southern California. Last year Mattel, creator of Barbie, earned worldwide sales of \$1.1 billion for that brand name alone.²

4. A study of very young children revealed that by age 6, children recognize the Old Joe Camel character as well as Mickey Mouse.³

5. The top four American broadcast networks ran an average of 11 minutes and 12 seconds of commercials during each hour of prime-time during November, 1997, up from nine minutes, 38 seconds in November, 1991.⁴

6. More than 30 advertisers paid a record US\$1.3 million per half-minute of ad time for the telecast of the NFL's championship game. In Canadian dollars, that's about \$2 million. Global TV, by contrast, would only charge \$60,000 for 30 seconds of air time.⁵

7. Surveys say that of the 130 million US Super Bowl viewers, 10 million tune in for the ads alone.

1. http://retailindustry.about.com/cs/sales_bacecommerce/2.www.tasc-toys.com/toystats.htm

3. DiFranza, J.R., Richards, J.W., Paulman, P.M., et al.

"RJ Reynolds' Nabisco's Cartoon Camel Promotes Camel Cigarettes to Children," JAMA, 1991;265:3149-3153.

4. Study by BBDO, cited in Canada.com, April 29, 1998.

5. The Globe and Mail, Jan. 27, 1998; The Ottawa Citizen, Jan. 23, 1998.



SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

A Christmas Carol:
"Pay what you can" edition
 Citadel Theatre
 Sunday, 1 December at 7:30pm

This Sunday the Citadel Theatre is showing their version of Charles Dickens' Christmas classic at a variable price especially good for students. The performance is "pay what you can," which is perfect for those who want to see some of Edmonton's vibrant theatre community, yet whose student loan only allows eating food from donated cans.

Speaking of canned food, the Citadel Theatre will be happy to take a non-perishable food or cash donation for the Edmonton Food Bank if you decide to take in the show.



BAH, HUMBUG! Scrooge is visited by an old pal.

Choke
 NewCityLivid Lounge
 Friday, 29 November at 9pm

You may have noticed that the NewCity Compound (being the Likwid Lounge and Suburbs) has finally opened at its new location in the heart of downtown. Although most of the hardcores have already been to see the new NewCity facilities, the Choke show is a great way to break in the new location if you haven't. An Edmonton punk mainstay since the early '90s, Choke has a raw energy that may be difficult to dance to, but is always fun to hear.

The Huron Carolee 2002
 with Tom Jackson, Patricia Connery,
 the Ennis Sisters, McMaster & James,
 Beverly Mahood and Duane Steele.
 The Winspear Centre
 Monday, 2 December at 7:30pm

Raising money for the Edmonton Food Bank, the Huron Carolee is a musical variety act in its fifteenth year. Organized by North of 60star and country singer Tom Jackson, the event has collected millions of dollars and untold amounts of food bank donations over its tenure. In addition to organizing the affair, Jackson will also be performing onstage with a collection of other notable singers. Be sure to bring a non-perishable food item.

Snoop Doggy Doggy
 The Joint
 Wednesday, 11 December at 9pm
 Nashville's Electric Roadhouse
 Wednesday, 11 December at 7pm

Some of you might think that Snoop Doggy has gone soft. The most famous pothead in the world has quit smoking the ganja because of his family.

However, if you think this way you're forgetting the Doggy's vast porn empire. This January he swept the Porn awards with his opus *Doggystyle* and I just saw a commercial for his meeting of minds with the producers of *Girls Gone Wild* entitled *Girls Gone Wild Doggystyle*.

He also probably has as much THC in his system that it is almost as if he is still smoking up. So you will still be seeing the same down and dirty Snoop Doggy this December, don't worry.

DANIEL KASZOR
 Circulation Manager

Sandler even worse in cartoon form

Eight Crazy Nights
 Directed by Seth Kearsley
 Starring Adam Sandler, Ilya Banks,
 and Rob Schneider
 Now playing

JOEL CHURY
 Moose Lodge goes A&E

Take my two bits of warning before you consider going to see Adam Sandler's *Eight Crazy Nights*: just because it's animated doesn't mean it's appropriate for kids, and just because it isn't appropriate for kids, doesn't mean it'll be funny for adults.

With that in mind, you should leave your maturity at home, and let the poop and fart jokes crack you up for 70 minutes. The film makes some decent attempts to recapture some of the humour that helped grow the Adam Sandler empire of movies produced under the "Happy- Madison" label. There are musical sequences that are hit and miss, including a new version of the Chanukah song that'll have you laughing in your seat after the credits start rolling.

Given the title, and the advertising campaign, this movie is meant to be a holiday picture, and in that sense the film fails miserably. Though it has the typical Scrooge-esque character who hates the holidays, the focus of the movie is less about the holidays, and more about dealing with pent-up emotions.

The main character is Davey Stone, the anti-hero (recognizable as a Sandler caricature, complete with his infamous red-hooded sweatshirt). He drinks heavily, belches, stifles restaurant bills, and tries to drive home drunk. In a barely humorous musical number, Stone proceeds to ride a garbage can lid like a snowboard while being chased by the police (thank goodness for animation). Hijinks ensue and he proceeds to



LIKE A DEER IN HEADLIGHTS Whitey and Davey chat in front of a car in the cold night of winter.

ruin everything he comes across in the town of Dukesville.

Sandler... err, I mean Stone, is sentenced to community service in the form of refereeing amateur basketball at the request of Whitey Duval (also voiced by Sandler). Whitey is a cute, loveable 70-year-old with abnormalities, including differently sized feet and a hairy body that would make Robin Williams blush.

Whitey volunteers to convert Davey from a bad apple into a better person. The task of helping Davey is tough for Whitey, but he gets help along the way from a group of deer and some talking corporate logos.

Yeah, that's right: talking corporate logos. Sandler's *Mr Deeds* gained a lot of financing from product placement, but this film goes the full

distance of commercialization. Trying to mask the blatant advertising, director Seth Kearsley has Whitey break into a song about why he loves the mall, including songs about such mall mainstays as GNC, Footlocker, and Radio Shack.

At just over an hour long, this movie barely squeaks by as a feature-length motion picture, and could have easily been straight-to-video. *Eight Crazy Nights* does contain some of the Sandler humour audiences have come to know and love, but not enough to justify an expensive night out to the theatre.

I hope Sandler has gotten this animated musical out of his system, and can now concentrate on his evolving career that includes his masterful performance in *Punch Drunk Love*.

Sixty Stories defy all pop conventions

Sixty Stories
 with the Summerfest
 The Rev Cabaret
 Saturday, 30 November
 Listen Records
 Sunday, 1 December

HEATHER ADLER
 Features Editor

While mass media would like you to think road maps to Christina Aguilera's body piercing, and the latest low-rise sequined butterfly jeans are the be all and end all of what makes female artists worthwhile, it seems not everyone is buying into that platinum *Amex* ideal.

The music industry is one of the greatest offenders in the beauty obsession crime race and Jo Snyder, songstress of Winnipeg's rhythmical indie-crooners *Sixty Stories*, is just one of many daring to stand out against the cleavage generation through her music.

"I really don't like having my picture taken, I don't like the idea of being featured in a video, and I also don't like having to conform to a beauty ideal because I don't look like the ideal and it's not the point," Snyder asserts. "I resent that stuff so I try to avoid it peacefully but I comment about it in the music as well."

While her own experiences confronting media perfection have been magnified by working in the music industry, Snyder's heartfelt lyrics also run intimately through battles many young girls can relate to. She divulges one topic close to her own heart, "I think most high-school girls struggle with eating disorders and it's not a really rare thing—it's just a matter of severity."

Anorexia and bulimia, often mistaken for teenage growing pains, are among the most serious widespread disorders and commonly go undiagnosed until long after their dire consequences



THREE PEOPLE WITH SIXTY STORIES Jo Snyder, Paul Furgale, and Sarah Sangster sing to inspire.

have affected their victims. "I knew lots of girls who had really strange issues with [eating disorders] and I still do, which is tragic because I'm 25 now and so it's a little bit sadder."

She comments on her reasoning for focusing so heavily on the more melancholy aspects of adolescence by reflecting on the lasting effects of juvenile depression. "It definitely is an issue that's connected to a lot of things that we do and how we feel about ourselves so I thought it was worth writing about."

A part-time university student, a full-time rocker, and an aspiring writer, the intensely well-spoken Snyder explains she even composed a short story around the themes of their latest album *Anthem Red*. The thesis of both the album and the story, she tells, are about loneliness, isolation and the beauty myths as viewed through

the perspective of a 15-year-old girl.

Surviving the testosterone-driven recording industry isn't easy with so few female peers in alternative rock genre. Snyder admits it gets lonely with such a sparse collection of girls to share bills with, and the obligation of being put on a stage every night is tough; however, with the right crowd she says it can also be a great form of catharsis.

"I like it better when it feels like we're playing a show with people," she notes. "If everyone is engaged in the show, then it's not so much people sitting back and staring at your situation in a judging manner."

With that brave attitude and a firm dedication to loud melodic rock woven with daring portrayals of youth issues, *Sixty Stories* is out to speak up for femininity in a fresh and clever way.

Who said romance was dead?



JOSH
KJENNER

A&E
Commentary

Whoever said reality TV is no good obviously never had the good fortune to witness ABC's latest audio-visual masterpiece, *The Bachelor*.

This show was gold of the 24-karat variety: 25 bountiful beauties all vying for the affection of one certain Adonis, and not afraid to expose their claws or genitals in the process. I love it!

For those of you not familiar with the show, the basic premise was this: take one chiseled, rich, All-American multi-sport athlete with Stockwell Day's hunky good looks and Bob Sager's witty charm, set him up with some very eligible bachelorettes, and over a series of episodes (and very steamy dates), he whittles the field down to one lucky woman.

It's kind of like slut training camp. One girl won't kiss on the first date? Sorry, I liked your bustle, but you're cut. A hopeful possesses a not-so-sexy-birthmark? Thanks for coming out. Body lice? See ya. Hairtamps? Cut. (Unless, of course, that's his bag.) If only the rest of us had it so easy. About the only thing guys like me get to choose from is penis or ... not.

This show was reality TV at its finest, although the word "reality" can only be applied in the loosest sense when referring to a show such as this. It had heroes, like the ravishing Heather with her flowing brunette locks and sizable bosom, and villains, like the seemingly bipolar Christi.

I hate all things Christi. She's got more loony than the frigging dollar store. She must eat nothing but gunpowder and smack to get that damn crazy. For most people, crazy is a hobby; for Christi, crazy is a career.

So, anyone reading this who has kids, heed my words: forget Wayne Gretzky or Neil Armstrong or any of those traditional (read, lame) role models.

But you know what? I wish she'd made it further. Why, you might ask? The further she went up, the harder she was going to fall. And I was going to be tuned into channel three, watching her burn.

But this show didn't only satisfy emotional sadist fantasies, this show gave you someone to look up to: the bachelor himself, Aaron. This guy is a stone-cold pimp. He was an all-state swimmer, he has a stonach you could

iron on, he's loaded, and to top it all off, he plays the damn piano.

Even that he holds a degree in mechanical engineering doesn't stop this guy from being cool.

So, anyone reading this who has kids, heed my words: forget Wayne Gretzky or Neil Armstrong or any of those traditional (read, lame) role models. If there's a Bachelor 2, get your kid in from the tube Wednesday at 9/8 central and let the real idolizing begin. Because I don't know about the rest of you, but I want a child who's going to make out with as many girls as humanly possible. I want grandkids—lots of them. I want to have a Kjenner full-contact football inter-squad game every Thanksgiving. Forget this "what are you thankful for?" bullshit.

And you know what else I want? More quality programming like *The Bachelor*. Although *Temptation Island* 1 and *It Came from the Bachelor's* plateau of unparalleled broadcasting excellence, a certain something was missing. It wasn't peroxide, and it definitely wasn't debauchery. It was a little thing I like to call romance.

This fine program was a 21st-century love story, played out for all of the voyeuristic masses to digest. What could be a more perfect representation of true love than a man picking his future bride like a present from a puppy at the SPCA? *Casablanca*, hit the road. This is a true love story.

Shootout a crappy sports game



NBA Shootout 2003

989 Studios
Sony Playstation
Rated "E" for everyone

DANIEL KASZOR
Circulation Manager

Usually, games made by 989 Studios blow and games such as NBA Shootout 2003 for the PSOne are crappy afterthoughts. After playing through Shootout, it's clear that this common

conception is right.

The player models in the game look like they could have come from something running on the nine-year-old Super Nintendo FX chip. Some players have morose grins while others look like subhuman missing links. On most of the players it seems that the designers couldn't be bothered to give them necks. Their heads just float above the

Playing Shootout is about as much fun as having a rabid badger chew off your genitals.

body models.

The graphics wouldn't matter if the gameplay rocked. However, playing Shootout is about as much fun as having a rabid badger chew off your genitals.

First off, the game is hard—so difficult, it's unbalancing. When I played as the Lakers against the computer's Clippers, I should have schooled the bargain basement secondary LA team, but I lost by a wide margin. This is because it's almost impossible to avoid fouls. Whenever your player gets within five feet of an opposing player, the game decides to give you a foul. The AI player doesn't have this same debilitation and continually drives to get points. Sooner or later, you give up because the game's unfair.

The only reason you would want to buy Shootout 2003 is if you own a PSOne and no next generation system and want to play with the new NBA roster. It isn't worth it.

Seriously, just find a used copy of NBA ShowTime or buy a used SNES and get NBA JAM. Both of those would be at least 200 times more fun than NBA Shootout 2003.

LIKE MOVIES?

Yeah, I figured as much. The Gateway wants to give away double-guest passes to a preview screening of **Robert DeNiro** and **Billy Crystal** in the sequel to *Analyze This: Analyze That* on **Wednesday, 4 December at 7pm**.

Paul Vitti (DeNiro) is getting out of jail, and now he's giving his psychiatrist, Dr Ben Sobel (Crystal), a lot of stress—Vitti's going to be Sobel's houseguest.

If you want a crack at these passes come up to **3-04 SUB** after **1pm on Friday** and tell the Entertainment Editor a story of one of your worst experiences with a holiday visitor.

It's that simple. Kids, but be quick, because like the Holidays, these passes will come and go very quickly, and then you'll have to pay to see the show when it opens on **Wednesday, 4 December**.

THE GATEWAY

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NEW MOVIES THIS WEEK
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EXPIRES December 31, 2002

2 Medium Drinks & 1 large Popcorn \$7.48
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no reproductions-no cash value
EXPIRES December 31, 2002

2 Midnight Movie \$2.50
Admissions For
valid Friday or Saturday for midnight movie
2 admissions per coupon-no reproductions
no cash value-EXPIRES December 31, 2002

Ararat melds history with story

Ararat

Directed by Atom Egoyan
Starring David Alpay
and Arsinée Khanjian
Opens Friday, 6 December

ERIKA THORKELESON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If no one remembers a horrific tragedy, is it OK to construct a history to at least make people remember something? Where do history and storytelling overlap? How much of yourself should you be expected to give to your family and their history in order to keep it alive? These are just a few of the many agonizing questions Atom Egoyan explores in his epic new feature, *Ararat*.

The main theme is storytelling—the layering of personal stories into a history of a people largely trampled under the march of time. Each character is desperately trying to put a face on a past that's more than 80 years and an ocean away from them.

The main character is Raffi, a first-generation Canadian of Armenian descent with a mother who is either an overbearing, over-intellectualizing autocrat or a kind, brilliant art historian, and a father who was either a terrorist or a freedom fighter. Like all the characters and even the film itself, all aspects are slippery historical truths, changing slowly with exploration.

Through a convoluted series of events, Raffi and his mother Ani (Arsinée Khanjian) become involved in the production of a movie (also called *Ararat*) about the Turkish genocide of the Armenians in 1915. Egoyan splices the making of the film with footage that seems as though it should be part of an epic docu-drama about the event itself, blurring the lines between fact and fiction, history and story.

Egoyan is himself of Armenian



DID SOMEONE CALL A PLUMMER? Christopher Plummer is pensive in *Ararat*.

descent, the son of refugees who fled Egypt to Vancouver. Through Raffi, Egoyan explores his own familial history and comes to terms with a life-long denial of a terrifying past. Raffi's story is intertwined with that of a Canadian family trying to deal with the intricacies of modern ideas about gender and relationships.

Film veteran Christopher Plummer's performance as the family's confused patriarch is poetically understated as he comes to terms with his son's homosexuality and his own imminent retirement from a position with Canada Customs. The two families never quite manage to connect but are subtly instrumental to each other's survival.

A last gift to the dead mother of fictional director Edward Saroyan, the film within the film depicts a time of unbearable violence in which lavishly uniformed Turks torture innocent Armenians. Scenes of courage

and rape are blended seamlessly with a background of cameras and production assistants in modern dress to punctuate the message that you're watching a story, albeit one that's based on historical events.

Egoyan even goes so far as to preempt criticism with quick cut shots of Saroyan answering journalists' allegations about the film's more manipulative qualities. Nobody seems to have exactly the right story about what really happened in 1915 because there's no one left to tell it.

What remains is simply this: it doesn't matter what exactly happened, just that something did happen, something on an abominable scale. When a million people are killed, does it really matter if we get the story exactly correct?

Ararat is as inscrutable as it is beautiful, taking filmmaking beyond mere entertainment while managing to entertain enough to make its 126-minute runtime easily endurable.

Nathan Wiley

with Sarah Sean
The PowerPlant
Saturday, 30 November

TAZ DHARWAL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Prince Edward Island native Nathan Wiley doesn't mind being compared to other musicians.

"I'm quite flattered, in fact. A lot the press has compared me to Tom Waits and Nick Lowe, which is great. They've influenced me to a great degree along with James Brown and a lot of early jazz blues."

His debut record, *Bottom Dollar*, was recorded on PEI in an abandoned fire hall before he was ushered to Halifax to perform live for CBC Radio's Definitely Not the Opera's Big Break contest.

"I played three songs from *Bottom Dollar* live out onto the radio, and I guess I had what the judges liked." After winning the Big Break contest, he was a finalist in CBC TV's "Great Canadian Dream" contest.

Wiley seems to have luck on his side. A lot of that has to do with his do-it-yourself work ethic. "*Bottom Dollar* was a small project, so it had to be done my way," Wiley explains while on a ferry heading to Victoria, the second stop on his first cross-Canada tour supporting chanteuse Sarah Sean. "I couldn't lose any creativity from outside influences." Even though *Bottom Dollar* is Wiley's independent release with more distribution, it doesn't take away from the fact that Wiley wrote, arranged, produced and played on a number of instruments on the record. "I even see myself doing a lot of the work on the next record. It has to continue on the next project."

But, now, with a major label debut, does that make Wiley part of the pop music machine? How about those acts touted as solo artists, when in reality,

they have a creative team behind them backing them up?

"Well, if you're a strong singer, I think you can get away with it. A jazz singer, for example, can get away with singing standards, but I'll always write and sing my own songs," Wiley states. "But there's always a ridiculous high standard for those who are singer/songwriters."

Wiley got infected by the music bug when he received an electric guitar for Christmas when he was 14. "I found that one instrument led to the next. I started understanding the bass' role, then the drums, and percussion." All this led to him songwriting. As with most singer/songwriters, Wiley is constantly writing new material.

"I played three songs from *Bottom Dollar* live out onto the radio and I guess I had what the judges liked."

NATHAN WILEY,
ON JUDGING DEFINITELY NOT THE
OPERA'S BIG BREAK CONTEST

"I can't stick to one subject when I'm songwriting. There's personal stuff, but along with that, there's society, and everything that encompasses that."

Most of his songs start with him on the guitar, but on this tour he's brought a stripped-down version of his live band. "It's only me and my drummer on this tour. In January, we'll be bringing the whole band for a supporting gig with Blue Rodeo."

This Saturday at the Plant, Wiley will show his ability to experiment with natural sounds of instruments along with his catchy lyrics and charming melodies, in the style of an established singer/songwriter.



JOZEL CAMPBELL-LEMBE
GLOWING EMBER Ember Swift shows the Plant what her music's all about.

Looking behind centre stage

The Ends of the Earth

Directed by Beau Coleman
Studio Theatre
28 November to 7 December

ADAM ROZENHART
Entertainment Editor

Drama, it turns out, isn't all about acting. The number and variety of people who come together from different disciplines to make a play work is often staggering, certainly for those of us who have little insider knowledge of such things. Fortunately, for students interested in drama and theatre, the U of A has a terrific program that tries to involve students in the drama department.

That's how Heidi Bickis fits into the picture. After completing her sociology degree at the University of Saskatchewan, she came to the U of A to rekindle a flame she'd snuffed after high school.

"After high school, I started a degree in drama, but didn't like it so I went to sociology," she says. "My interest is in political theatre, and I think there's a big connection between sociology and political theatre, because sociology is about studying society and understanding how society works."

She says drama is an all-encompassing discipline that gleams information from a variety of areas and professions. "If you're going to direct a play, you have to understand historical aspects of the play, and if you're doing lighting you have to understand the scientific aspects of lighting," she notes.



SHAWN BENROW
ALLIED UP Studio Theatre's next show is about surveillance and paranoia.

Bickis' role doesn't fall under either of those categories, though. Currently working on her MA, Bickis is in charge of coming up with the program notes for *The Ends of the Earth* (winner of the 1994 Governor General's Award for Drama), a dark comedy about paranoia and surveillance. Her job was to further sell the ideas of the play to audiences while they wait patiently in their seats for the curtains to rise.

"You need to give the audience something to read about, kind of like making a connection to the production and the audience while they're watching it," says Bickis.

Sounds easy? It isn't from Bickis' experience. She came from a strictly academic background, and an MA means more focus on academia; this practical assignment wasn't as easy as it first sounded. "It was hard to transfer from working on an academic paper to this more publicity-oriented, accessible-to-the-audience kind of writing."

Will *The Ends of the Earth* be more accessible to audiences? Perhaps. And with any luck, Heidi Bickis' program notes will only serve to improve understanding and perceptions about the play. Who knows? Maybe she'll even win a nine.

Igby tastes the lowest of the low

Igby Goes Down

Directed by Burn Steers

Starring Kieran Culkin, Susan Sarandon, Jeff Goldblum, Ryan Phillippe, Claire Danes, and Amanda Peet
Gaiety Theatre
Starts Friday, 29 November

KELLY FITZGIBBON

Arts & Entertainment Writer

"I'm drowning in assholes!" The protagonist's poignant and ironic statement sums up the tone of this dark, scathingly funny film. Angry, sarcastic and old beyond his years, 17-year-old Igby struggles in a world where the people are cold and distant and "the best relationships are based on contracts."

In a grotesque and memorable beginning, Igby (played searingly by Culkkin brother Kieran) and older brother Oliver (Ryan Phillippe) watch their mother sleeping in bed. They then calmly place her head in a plastic bag and watch her asphyxiate.

Though not as blatantly physical as this scene, the suffocating oppression and pressure placed upon Igby are deftly portrayed in a quick series of flashbacks. His family runs the gamut of dysfunction. A young Igby witnesses his schizophrenic father's breakdown. Igby's mother, played deftly and cruelly by Susan Sarandon, indulges in addictions and making her sons miserable. The successful-but-souless older brother schemes in business and love. All this drives the jaded prep-school flunk-out Igby to steal his mother's credit card and escape to New York.

There, Igby proceeds to hide out in a loft and live off of the donations of his rich godfather (Jeff Goldblum).



LOST IN NEW YORK Igby chats with his dancer/junkie friend.

While living with his godfather's mistress and killing his time away with his newfound girlfriend Suki (Claire Danes), Igby learns that addictions and assholes are not distinguished by class.

This is a film of moral bankruptcy and unflinching self-absorption. The exciting world of rebellion, sex and debauchery into which Igby escapes quickly dissolves into a horror show of destruction and abuse.

Disdain for the life he has left behind only leads Igby further down the dangerous path. Freedom from the dysfunction of his family brings different problems. Even his attempts to do good, such as helping a dancer/junkie (Amanda Peet) end in betrayal and violence. At his lowest point, Igby is driven to deliver drugs for a heroin dealer. One particularly poignant scene

sees Igby dealing to his former prep-school teacher in a glaring blurring of the lines between privilege and desperation.

While his character at first appears bereft of compassion and understanding, it is in fact Igby who is the moral core of the entire film. Amid the mingling crowds of rich Manhattanites and desperate junkies, Igby learns there are no loyalties, but rather contracts and understandings. In a world where families are alien and lovers and friends changeable, Igby discovers the hard facts of life, love and, ultimately, forgiveness.

A startling portrait of a young man coming into his own, *Igby Goes Down* is shockingly funny, disturbing and distant, yet triumphs through the love and understanding that no amount of wealth can buy.

SITE UNSEEN



www.sock-monkey.com/index.html

TYSON DURST

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Know what's better than ordinary monkeys? Sock monkeys, baby! Explore the theory of their origins and evolution over 200 000 years and how lint was involved. Did you know that our human ancestors had prehistoric dyes? Well, they did. Just like the Flintstones.

Remember that Big Yakk catastrophe? No? That's because a team of specially trained sock monkeys diffused the situation before it could spiral out of control. Yeah, humans took the credit but now the true story has come out.

But this site isn't just about sock monkeys. Nope!

Learn of the sweeping alien conspiracy to steal our pants. Gain a new appreciation for cheese. Unravel the mysteries of π . Read more miscellaneous ramblings.

Yes, it's all here and you'll never look at the world the same way again. Your life will be changed!

CULTURA OBSCURA



Kit Cat Clock

ADAM ROZENIART
Entertainment Editor

Ah, the '30s! What an exhilarating time to be alive. Dust, clouds, dust, poverty, sadness—all the wonderful things that

make life worth living. Or worth killing yourself over.

That is, of course, unless you were the proud owner of the Kit Cat Clock. Apparently, this clock brought "zany humor to troubling times and a smile to all who spied him." It seems all it took to make people laugh during the Great Depression was rolling eyes and a wagging tail. If you didn't own this clock, you probably had some kind of pet that did the same thing.

We don't have to worry about Great Depressions or wars nowadays, though. We have the warm, fuzzy protection of the United States Government. Why, then, buy the clock?

It was a gift, first of all, from two wonderful people who understand that, while there may not be such a thing as a Great Depression around Edmonton, there is indeed Great Stress in a newspaper office.

That isn't to say we don't enjoy our jobs, because we do. I'm just not sure what we'd do without the Kit Cat Clock.



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492.2231 or check out www.bears.ualberta.ca or www.pandas.ualberta.ca

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

RUGBY The Clansmen Rugby Club are always looking for new members, both male and female. No experience required. call 476-0268 or check www.clansmenrugby.com

Learn to Kayak! The U of A paddling society offers classes, clinics, and scheduled river trips. Contact uaps@ualberta.ca or visit www.ualberta.ca/~uaps

ASL Sign Language class level one begins 14 January, 2003 for twelve weeks: Tuesdays,

6:30 to 9:30pm. Contact Specialized Support and Disability Services, U of A 492-3381, 2-800 SUB for more information.

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Student work. Earn extra money \$21.05 guaranteed-appointment. Flexible hours. Conditions apply. Work in marketing, customer service/sales. www.workforstudents.com 436-9444

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THREE LINES FOR A TOONIE

If anyone out there knows what happened to that most fabulous net game/keeyob/please e-mail entertainment@gotwayualberta.ca I'm suffering from prolonged Aco withdrawal. I need to be clever! Help!

Hey Rheal! I notice the Krazy Shack contains quickly dwindling in the fridge. This nice pudding mania knows no end!

Hey everyone. It's been a lovely first semester. I hope everyone has a lovely winter break, and a happy sort of new year. Cheers...ain't...

Jump! If you want to jump. Or run! If you want to run. But don't ever do anything you don't want to do. Unless, of course, it's homework, in which case, do it anyway, or else you'll fail. lol.

JP: So that's that. 23 down, but a number more to go. It's always so much more bearable when you're on the down swing, eh? Gonna be a nice weekend, I bet. Love ya lots, pall 87D



Do you want to have your text books paid for
by Labatt Breweries
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Labatt Breweries and the Students' Union are proud to present 5 opportunities to win a \$500 gift certificates at the U of A Bookstore.

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To enter fill out the following information and drop it off at any SU Info booth (SUB, HUB or CAB), Power Plant, Platt or U of A Bookstore.

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fourteen not forgotten



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☐ Oppose ☐ Support

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Tear out and drop off at the SUB Info.
Booth before 4pm Tuesday, 03 December.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
STUDENTS'
UNION

FREEZE THE FEES

“Let me be frank: we want the best students we can get, we want the best faculty we can get, and we want the best research we can get... We want to be an elite institution, yes.”

University of Alberta Provost Doug Owram, Oct. 8, 2002

The University of Alberta has the highest tuition rates in Western Canada, and among the highest throughout the rest of the nation, as well. In a time where, compared to the rest of Canada, Alberta's economy is booming, Albertan universities remain one of the lowest funded in all of Canada.

At the Universities of Alberta and Calgary, the administration spending is through the roof, an unwise use of student dollars. Report after report outline the fact that high tuition rates are keeping qualified potential students away, simply because they cannot afford to pay. Other provinces can see the value of post-secondary education and have either frozen their fees or rolled them back.

This year, we are asking for your help to get the university to **FREEZE THE FEES**. The information in this supplement is a good starting point for gathering information about the facts on tuition. Please visit our website for more information: www.freezehefess.ca

Your elected executive for this year are:

President – Mike Hudema
president@su.ualberta.ca
VP Academic – Mat Brechtel
vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca
VP External – Anand Sharma
vp.external@su.ualberta.ca
VP Operations and Finance – Steve Smith
vp.finance@su.ualberta.ca
VP Student Life – Kail Ross
vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca



www.su.ualberta.ca
492.4236

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 20th – Dec. 6th
•SUB Booths on campus encouraging students to sign letters and petitions
•Classroom speaking
Dec. 3rd-18th
•High school speaking
•U of A Classroom Speaking - Sign up to volunteer!
Dec. 11
•APC meeting – This is one of the stages in the tuition decision-making process.
Jan. 6th-17th
Volunteers needed

Myths about Tuition

Myth #1

My Tuition Dollars are Going to Increased Quality at the U of A

Really? Class sizes are through the roof – this place is stacked to the rafters. Classroom spending has sunk like a stone in the past decade.

What has gone up is spending on central administration and travel; these do not directly affect the quality of your education. So why should you pay more?

It's time that students at the U of A sent a message – enough is enough.

Tuition has gone up while quality has gone down.

Myth #2: Infrastructure, Program Costs, and Quality

It is often said that differential fees will be used to purchase specialized equipment, materials, or classroom facilities for courses that require more technical resources. Alternatively, these fees may be used to provide additional funding for faculty, to keep student/teacher ratios low, or to provide additional academic support within given faculties. In this way, students from a faculty or department with higher fees could benefit from using up-to-date equipment, while those who go to lower-fee institutions will not enjoy the same benefits. However, this assumption depends on whether the universities pass the additional funds on to the faculties in question.

The Law programs at Queen's, Windsor, York, and Ottawa are deregulated. Students in these programs pay markedly differentiated fees. The Law programs at the Universities of Alberta, Victoria, Calgary, and New Brunswick are not differentiated. However, students in the deregulated programs do not enjoy better faculty to student ratios than students in regulated programs.

It appears that faculty-student ratios are influenced more by institutional decision making and a willingness to provide adequate funding to the Law faculty. Student-faculty ratios are also dependent on government funding, which provides stability and allows longer term planning. By decreasing government funding and increasing tuition, tuition user fees come to make up for lost government revenue, but do not provide additional funds for innovation and improvement.

Furthermore, it is questionable whether Law programs actually cost more to deliver than Arts and Science programs. It cost approximately \$2,620 to educate a Law student in 1999/2000. However, students were paying \$3,650 in tuition, a net loss to the student of \$1030. Where was the extra money going? How has quality increased? What were students paying for? Why should they pay more?

Debunking Differential Myths

Myth #1:

Accessibility Won't Be Compromised, Because Extra Revenues Will Help Needy Students

In Ontario, the province legislated that 30% of differential fees collected by faculties must go to student aid. Even so, studies are showing a major drop in low income access to university education – 40% at Guelph and 50% at the University of Western Medical

Classroom Spending at the U of A



Source: CAUBO 2001, Instruction and Non-Sponsored Research

school. The U of A is proposing that 20% of differential fees go to student support, less than in Ontario.

The SU has looked at possible student aid scenarios, and we have found that a small number of low-income students, and the vast majority of middle income students will not be able to access bursaries. There is simply not enough money to go around, and it is likely that middle-income students will be the ones that suffer. Differential Fees Create High Need Students.

Is another layer of bureaucracy really what this University needs?

High tuition/high aid universities and colleges is American-style post-secondary education. However, schools in the U.S. have had a lot of problems with this model. For example, the University must create another level of administration for student aid, and they must spend more on advertising their aid programs.

Myth #2:

Doctors and Lawyers Can Afford It

Many people think that doctors and lawyers make lots of money upon graduation, so student loans in excess of \$80,000 shouldn't be a problem to pay off.

Not all doctors and lawyers make a ton of money. For example, Alberta's health care system is under a lot of strain because of a shortage of rural doctors. Rural medical practice pays a lot less than specializing in an urban centre.

A lot of doctors are being lured to the States by the promise of higher salaries. The brain drain will only worsen when doctors have massive student loans to

pay off.

Health care services won't be the only ones to suffer. Legal aid, environmental, and public interest research law practices don't pay massive salaries – on average, about \$40,000. Law students will be far less likely to go in to these socially necessary areas of practice if they are carrying \$80,000 in student debt.

Differential tuition will have a serious impact on the legal and medical professions. The Canadian Medical Association and the Canadian Bar Association are so concerned about high tuition that they have been lobbying the federal government to step in and stop skyrocketing tuition fees.

Myth #3

Cross Subsidization

Supporters of differential tuition argue that students in programs that cost less to operate are subsidizing students in programs with higher operating costs, for example the Faculty of Medicine. Our institutions could likely reconcile the problem of cross-subsidization by refining their accounting practices and ensuring that programs receive adequate levels of funding and report any external funding to central administration. What's more, "cross-subsidization" is rampant at every university; for example, not every student uses health or athletic services, but every student pays for them.

A small amount of cross-subsidization among academic programs or programs that enhance student life is a fact at the University of Alberta – one that students argue is acceptable within certain limits but should be carefully examined to make sure that funds are being properly spent and faculties are being properly

funded. However, it is not acceptable to students at the University of Alberta that non-credit instruction be subsidized with our tuition dollars. U of A students subsidized non credit-instruction to the tune of \$2.5 million last year. If non-credit instruction was cost-recovery, as it should be, there would be no need for differential tuition.

Myth #4: Perception and Quality

It is sometimes claimed that if students are required to pay more for their degree, they will perceive it to be of higher quality. This claim lends credence to the argument for market-value tuition models, in which institutions must charge user fees similar to those of their peers in order to be seen as prestigious institutions.

With the introduction of differential tuition, some schools now charge significantly higher tuition based on nothing more than "reputation." This is despite the fact that external accreditation bodies often set the requirements for the degree to be recognized professionally. Schools remain accessible to middle and low-income earners - by keeping tuition at an affordable level - become "second choice" in this scenario, and will consequently have less revenue with which to improve their programs. As a result, the market structure of price-competitive programs will become more cartel-like, with a few "superior" schools catering only to those wealthy enough to afford them, and a cluster of inferior schools for low-income students. Differential tuition is often justified by the argument that it promotes competition, or allows universities to compete. However, differential tuition actually reduces competition, particularly in an environment where there are already very few "competitors."

The faculties that are pushing hardest for differentiated fees - Medicine and Law - are already ranked among the highest in Canada without differentiation. For example, the Law Faculty at the U of A is adamant that they must be able to compete with the University of Toronto - this despite the MacLean's Law School rankings that place Alberta above U of T.

The University of Alberta Students' Union believes that all of this talk of "competition" misses the point entirely. We agree that our Law, Medicine, Engineering, and Business schools should offer the best possible educational experience, with small classes, great instructors, and adequate materials. However, we dispute the notion that a university is a market player like any other manufacturer - we fancy ourselves to be more than mere consumers, we view education as more than a commodity, and we certainly do not view our professors as "selling" us an educational experience. Some aspects of social life operate independent of the market mechanism - university is one of them.

IT DOES NOT COST MORE TO EDUCATE A LAW STUDENT THAN OTHER PROGRAMS. In fact, expenditures per student in the Faculties of Science and Agriculture/Forestry are higher than the Faculty of Law.

The Truth About Tuition at the University of Alberta

- Tuition has increased 209% since 1991; compound inflation has been 22% for the same time period
- Alberta has the 3rd highest undergraduate arts tuition in Canada
- 75% of University of Alberta students think that tuition relief should be the top priority for post-secondary education
- 47% of University of Alberta students think that \$2500-\$3499 is an appropriate level of tuition
- Average tuition and fees for the 2002/03 academic year, for science and arts undergraduates, is \$4580.38
- Tuition at the University of Alberta is 10.9% higher than the national average for arts and science undergraduates. Instead of being "indisputably recognized," for high tuition, U of A students prefer to be average
- 77.2% of U of A students think that a university education is unaffordable
- 49.5% of U of A students think that a university education is not accessible for all qualified Albertans
- 88.6% of U of A students think that people from middle and high income brackets are more likely to attend university than those from a low-income bracket
- 44% of Alberta's recently graduated high school students not attending post-secondary institutions cite already high tuition as a reason for not attending
- Student contributions to institutional revenues - in the form of tuition dollars - have doubled since 1991, from 12% to 24%. Meanwhile, spending on instruction and non-sponsored research, the kind of dollars that are most likely to improve the quality of our education, has dropped by 9.1%.
- Alberta is second-worst in Canada in terms of funding its universities. Provincial operating grants to Alberta universities fell by 27.9% between 92/93 and 99/00
- Alberta has been ranked dead last for three years in a row in terms of post-secondary accessibility and affordability

The Students' Union Tuition Campaign

We want YOU to get involved!

- Nov. 20th - Dec. 6th
 - 12 Ways of University MisspendingDaily at noon, Main Floor SUB (at the donor wall)
- Nov. 25-29th
 - SUB Booths on campus encouraging students to sign letters and petitions
 - Classroom speaking
- Dec. 3rd-18th
 - High school speaking
 - U of A Classroom Speaking - Sign up to volunteer!
- Dec. 11
 - APC meeting - This is one of the stages in the tuition decision-making process.
- Jan. 6th-17th
 - Info Booths in SUB - Sign up now to volunteer!
 - Classroom speaking - Sign up now to volunteer!

From January 6 to the 17th, we have loads of great events planned. Tuition tollbooths, puppet making, a "Wall of Debt," sign campaign, a tuition graveyard, and even a campaign of people who are willing to FREEZE FOR THE FREEZE. We will also be hosting at least one more public forum.

WE WANT YOUR IDEAS FOR MORE FUN ACTIONS AND EVENTS PLEASE GET INVOLVED EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Volunteer Meetings
Every Wednesday
4pm
Room 606
Students' Union Building

Volunteers needed for:
puppet making
class-room speaking
volunteer recruitment
promotions
rally organizing

Justin could one day be a Supreme Court Justice, but he'll need to be given the chance.



Once Justin is finished law school, his tuition, fees and books will have cost him \$152,168.58.*

education?

Postsecondary education is facing a crisis in Alberta. In just over a decade, tuition fees have risen over 200%. If this alarming trend continues, a post-secondary education will become an impossible dream for many young Albertans.

If the Kohn government were to raise their university funding levels to the national average, the university would be able to reduce tuition fees to more affordable levels.

Do your part to ensure an affordable, quality education for your children. Contact Dr. Lily Cheng, Minister of Learning and Higher Education, to voice your concerns about the future of your child's education.


Dr. Cheng calls for:
\$100-million to fund
\$100-million to fund
\$100-million to fund
\$100-million to fund

E-mail: Dr.Cheng@ed.gov.ab.ca

* Based on a model by Dr. Stephen DODD with an annual increase of 10%. Values are rounded to nearest \$1,000 for readability and are not intended to be used for budgetary or financial planning. The current provincial operating grant to the University of Alberta is \$100 million.

For more information, log on to www.tuitionaware.com

Sara may one day win a Pulitzer Prize, but she'll need to be given the chance.



By the time Sara receives her university Arts degree, she'll have paid \$45,020 for her tuition, fees and books.*

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For more information, log on to www.tuitionaware.com

Emma might find the cure for blindness, but she needs to be given the chance.



The tuition on the tuition of post-secondary education will cost at least \$111,817.7, an eye of the life long companion.*

To become a doctor, Emma's university education will cost at least \$111,817.7, an eye of the life long companion.*

Postsecondary education is facing a crisis in Alberta. In just over a decade, tuition fees have risen over 200%. If this alarming trend continues, a post-secondary education will become an impossible dream for many young Albertans.

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\$100-million to fund

E-mail: Dr.Cheng@ed.gov.ab.ca

* Based on a model by Dr. Stephen DODD with an annual increase of 10%. Values are rounded to nearest \$1,000 for readability and are not intended to be used for budgetary or financial planning. The current provincial operating grant to the University of Alberta is \$100 million.

For more information, log on to www.tuitionaware.com

Fight

**the Tuition Increases!
Volunteer Now!**

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Advertising/Promotion
Puppet Making
Organizing Volunteers



**Wednesday
4pm
606 SUB**

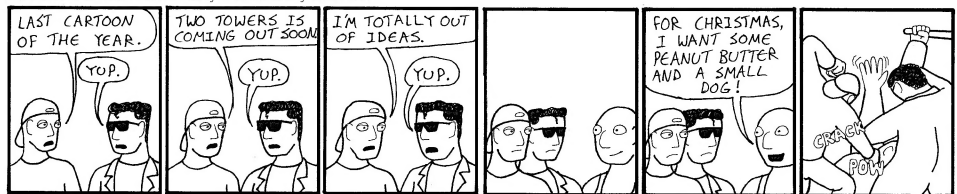
**Volunteer Sheets will be available all SU Info
Booths and online at www.su.ualberta.ca**

**For more information, please contact:
Mike Hudema, President, Students' Union / 492.4236 / president@su.ualberta.ca**

THEY CALL HIM REGGIE by Michael "Sexcelior" Winters



A CARCINOMA SEASON'S GREETINGS by Levard the Black Tyrant of Death



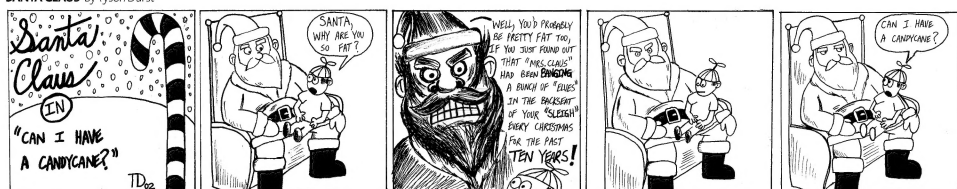
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